



BELFAST ASSEMBLY 2022

SECURITY COMMISSION ADOPTED RESOLUTION

RESOLVED: The Congress of Nations and States shall create, promote, and utilize mechanisms to ensure that Peoples have the right to life, security, and well-being, and to protect them from any entity which seeks to discriminate, persecute, kill, or otherwise exercise violence against them or deny them their personal dignity.

FURTHER RESOLVED: The Congress of Nations and States shall continually monitor existing national and international protection mechanisms to determine where Nations, States, and Corporations fail to meet their responsibilities and obligations to safeguard the lives and well-being of Peoples.

FURTHER RESOLVED: CNS will recognize the right to self-defense of a People.

FURTHER RESOLVED: The Congress of Nations and States shall mandate one of its Commissions review the effectiveness of current measures, including but not limited to laws, programs, and policies of member nations and states in CNS relating to the protection of women against gender-based violence.

FURTHER RESOLVED: The Congress of Nations and States shall mandate one of its Commissions review the effectiveness of current measures, including but not limited to laws, programs, and policies of member nations and states in CNS relating to food and water security.



ASSEMBLY 2022
BACKGROUND REPORT
SECURITY COMMISSION

Following a discussion within our commissioners, who each have substantial experience related to security issues, it was determined that two of the chief security concerns for Peoples were physical violence and the threat of physical violence posed by States, armed entities, rival nations, and other groups and individuals. In establishing this Resolution, all terms are those adopted from the Congress of Nations and State Charter, as well as other international instruments. The Commission solicited feedback from participating CNS organizations to gauge the importance and risk of this threat.

The 2020-2022 Security Commission sent out a survey in March of 2022, in which participants could prioritize their concerns, and we received 24 responses from participants. Their words gave us insight into their lived experiences and helped our Commission formulate this Resolution to reiterate their concerns accurately.

Using our members' testimonials as evidence, it is our objective to bear witness to their experiences and represent their realities faithfully. Accordingly, in the text that follows, we quote directly from their responses. For instance, one CNS participant responded that, *“currently the duty to halt and prevent genocide and prevent mass atrocities lies with the States.”*

One common theme among participants to the questionnaire involved threats and violence originating from the government or ruling party. As one participant explained, *“Indigenous peoples are living [under] the moral threats of government when they are not members of [party in power]. The freedom and expression of our organization are limited due to not [being a] member of the [party in] power. Sometimes [our people] are killed in the countryside and there is no following up of justice to sentence the [perpetrators of the violence].”* Another pointed to *“direct threats by government militias against the demonstrators” which result[ed] in thousands killed.*

Regarding threats and violence on the part of States, several participants pointed to race and racism: *“We are facing top threats of hate speech, racist and human rights violations including*

...mass killing by governments.” One response pointed to “a legacy of medical violence against Indigenous peoples.... The government has carried out medical experiments. These hospitals were designed for segregation and were rife with medical abuse, from surgical experimentation to forced sterilization.”

Several respondents emphasized ethnic conflicts, including *“kidnapping [and] killing due to religious bias.”* Another reported, *“Just last month, 5 people died in...clashes between two rival ethnic groups in a years-long dispute over water and access to grazing land.”*

The Commission noted in the submissions that there were many references to terrorism in many different forms. One theme connected to terrorism related to gender-based violence. For example, one organization noted how: *“to be a woman today in many parts of the world, particularly, in a conflict zone, means having to choose between fighting for your rights or fighting for your life.”* Another emphasized gendered violence in which the threats and violence occur within the home and among family members: *“Many women have been murdered by their husbands, just as many men have been murdered by their wives; fathers and mothers were killed by their sons because of financial need.”*

Violence on the part of non-state groups was another important theme. One CNS participant pointed to terrorism, *“We are deeply concerned by control over food by terrorism as a tool in war.”* Another participant reported that, *“Indigenous peoples’ lands are increasingly occupied by terrorists and extremists, threatening their lives and often their ability to partner with governments in the establishment of institutions to protect their rights.”* Also reported were the *“assassinations and constant threats by organized crime and narcotraffickers.”*

A number of participating CNS organizations made a connection between terrorism and food and water security. Among the testimonies, one CNS participant wrote, *“this is calling on the Council (Congress of Nations and States) to recognize water as one of the top security concerns facing the global community on water security for Indigenous people regarding ownership and State control.”* Another participant testified how, *“Indigenous ownership of traditional livelihood including traditional food system, to protect food security is a must for Indigenous people to survive”*. Terrorism and food security appeared again in the statement of another member who recommended that, *“we are deeply concerned by control over food by terrorism as a tool for war”*.

Participants also raised concerns about military and State violence, noting that: *“direct threats by militias against demonstrators”* and *“violence against our communities also demonstrate the devastating impact of militarized responses to social crises.”*

Lastly, surveys revealed the necessity of tackling the issues legally and addressing the lack of mechanisms to protect peoples’ security. For instance, one participant declared, *“we recommend new mechanisms for establishing ownership and penalties against states and companies that steal water from our lands.”*

This recommendation was similar to other participants who suggested the need to *“undertake all institutional measures required to ensure the full security for Indigenous tribes.”*

We would like to close with the words of one participant who declared: *“prevention requires apportioning responsibility and promoting collaboration [among] concerned States and Indigenous tribes.”*

We hope that our Resolution is one small step in outlining why action is necessary.

Commissioners:

Thoreau Redcrow, Lorraine Bayard de Volo, Tracy Devine Guzman, Elias Offor, Bernard C.Perley

