

OUR RIGHTS AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE NEED TO BE FULLFILLED!

Greenland Government has proclaimed that extraction of uranium in mountain of Kuannersuit has gotten closer, so on behalf opposition against uranium extraction we turn to you with all our hearts.

We who live near Narsaq and the area, sheep farmers, fishermen, hunters, yes many of us living nearby, are very concerned.

We are concerned about that it looks like that Greenland Government is about approve a report on extraction of radioactive materials and other dangerous mineral without our consent and without respecting our rights as indigenous people.

As indigenous people, we have following rights:

If there are plans that are going to have drastic changes to our lives, we have a right to free, informed and prior consent or not consent; we have right to take part in planning of priorities concerning our homelands. That has not happened unto this day.

We who live in and close to the Narsaq / Kuannersuit have the priority right to have EIA report for Kuannersuit presented us, so we can ensure that all the questions we have asked over the years until today are answered; answers that we could not get until EIA is presented. We whom live in Narsaq / near Kuannersuit have a right to have presented EIA report before anyone else, only thereby there can be closure to claims on that we can have our questions answered only after publication of EIA.

We need to be informed on what kind of impacts the dangerous radioactive materials and dangerous minerals on our health and they can harm us and what we have to do to prevent becoming ill. We demand scientists that have many years of research on dangerous radiations from mines present this information, and we demand that there are proficient Greenlandic interpreters. We have no use of information campaigns done by people from Denmark and employees in Greenland Self Rule Departments whom sometimes use non-understandable interpretations. These information meetings are also mostly about what kind procedures are followed and Greenlandic Head Medical Officer has no experience in working in a uranium mine. It is also hard that scientists that do these information meetings cannot fully answer the vital question that are presented.

We need to be informed on what kind of impact there is going to be on nature and environment and how extensive the pollutions is going to be. We need to be informed on what kind impact the terrestrial and marine pollution is going to have on marine life and fish, not only in our area but also in entire Greenlandic coastal area.

We need to be clearly informed on what kind of impact there is and if there are benefits and negative impacts on sheep farming, cattle breeding, food industry, tourism, fisheries, fishing industry, hunting, husbandry, caribou herding and on numerous other existing livelihoods.

We also have many other questions. As mention before, usual response on our question that we have wait for the EIA, report. On that ground, we demand that the Greenland Government meet us face to face and present the EIA. Besides that, we demand that actual researchers and scientists from countries with actual mines of dangerous radioactive materials (medical doctors, geologist, researchers on nature and environment) come to us and inform us. We demand that we are informed on what kind of issues we have to be prepared for. Only this way there will be proper possibility of having our questions answered. Since the mine is going to have a nationwide impact,

it is important that information that are presented to us be also presented to other communities in Greenland. We need to know how much nature and environment are going to be polluted. We need to be informed on upcoming pollution on terrestrial and marine animal, fish, not only in our local area but also in entire coast of Greenland.

I have heard previously that only one family are going to receive compensation for moving out of their home due to opening of mine in Kuannersuit despite earlier claims that their livelihood is not going to be impacted negatively. After the opening of the mine if it turns out that other individuals and other livelihoods are going to lose income, and if it can be proved that it is due to the mine, we have learned that the Government of Greenland have announced that they will not be held responsible (there has been parliament member inquiry on this according to section 37 in parliamentary act). This is despite that we have as indigenous people a right to have our futures planned and given an opportunity in case of we had to move out prematurely. This right to for planning beforehand is not fulfilled uniformly to everyone; this kind discrimination is not acceptable!

Beside above mentioned demands we also would like to express our demand that this case should be treated according to our rights as indigenous people, that means we have to obtain sufficient information, have our questions answered, and our rights are fulfilled first then the Government of Greenland can assess the EIA and SIA reports on the basis of popular opinion and decide if they should approve the reports or not, we whom are going to be impacted should have priority.

I like to emphasize that I have frequent dialogue with organization that work with our indigenous rights, namely Inuit Circumpolar Council and United Nations Human Rights. From them we have learned that we have possibility of using other channels and instruments if correct procedures are not followed and our rights as indigenous people are not properly fulfilled. In this connection, we have a right to bring the case to a court as indigenous people. Has the Government of Greenland sit aside funds for possibility court case since after the approval of the mine, the compensations will be very hard to achieve and there will be high risk of accidents.

We must remember that we only one nature and earth. It should not be polluted in a way we cannot clean it up. We must not only think of ourselves but also coming generations, just as our ancestors did. It also should be remembered that proposed mine is going to affect the whole country so it is important to ensure there is public participation before it is too late.

We have so many other questions beside what is in this text.

The Government of Greenland are you going to accept and fulfill our demands. If it not the case, why? Parliamentarians how do you take this inquiry? Do you believe that our rights as indigenous people are ought to be fulfilled or do you think it is not necessary?

We like to see that you the members of Government of Greenland that you keep in your heart that you are there for everyone since the impacts do not have politics.

I have included below the links to relevant information for anyone whom might be interested in them.

We need to feel safe and therefore we need answers as soon as possible

My sincere hope that you clearly get our message since the people are the most important.

Sincerely yours, take care of yourselves.

On behalf of those whom oppose the uranium mine and those whom approve of the mine. We all need correct information.

Mariane Paviasen