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HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

SPECIAL PROCEDURES OF THE  
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

**Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food**

REFERENCE: AL Food (2000-9) OTH 1/2013

18 April 2013

Dear Mr. Hulings,

I have the honour to address you in my capacity as Special Rapporteur on the right to food pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 22/9.

I would like to bring to your attention information I have received regarding oil exploration by USCapital Energy Belize Ltd. in the Sarstoon-Temash National Park and surrounding areas in the Toledo District of Belize. Today I have sent a letter to the Government of Belize expressing my concerns about alleged seismic testing and potential future exploratory drilling and oil exploitation activities by your company in the area. A letter concerning this case has also been sent through the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations Office at Geneva to the Government of the United States of America, as USCapital Energy Inc., the parent company of USCapital Energy Belize Ltd., is headquartered in this country.

The Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, James Anaya, is also aware of and continues to monitor this case and sent a communication to the Government of Belize on 17 March 2009 about related concerns.

According to information received:

In the *Case of Maya Indigenous Communities of Toledo v. Belize*, Case 12.053, Report No. 40/4, 12 October 2004, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights recommended the Government of Belize to “carry out the measures to delimit, demarcate and title or otherwise clarify and protect the corresponding lands of the Maya people without detriment to other indigenous communities and, until those measures have been carried out, abstain from any acts that might lead the agents of the State itself, or third parties acting with its acquiescence or its





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