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Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food

REFERENCE: OL Food (2000-9)
USA 1/2013

18 April 2013

Excellency,

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 Excellency's Government's attention information I have received regarding oil explorations undertaken by USCapital Energy, a company headquartered in the United States of America, 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 seismic testing and potential future exploratory drilling and oil exploitation activities by USCapital Energy in the area. A letter concerning this case has also been sent to the company, headquartered in Corpus Christi, Texas and its subsidiary in Belize.

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.

It is the principal obligation of the State where these oil explorations are taking place, Belize, to respect, protect and fulfil human rights, and to ensure that operations of business enterprises within their territory respect human rights. However, as I outline further below, international human rights standards, including the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (A/HRC/17/31), also impose on home States certain responsibilities regarding business corporations operating abroad. Home States, under the jurisdiction of which the corporations concerned are domiciled, have established their headquarters or have their main place of business, are expected to set out clearly the expectation that such corporations respect human rights throughout their operations, including in operations that take place outside their national territory. Thus, international human rights treaty bodies are encouraging States parties to take appropriate measures to





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