

# BAD RIVER BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

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CHIEF BLACKBIRD CENTER

P.O. Box 39 • Odanah, Wisconsin 54861

## MEDIA RELEASE

The Bad River Band presents its case against destructive mining activities to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

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Contact: Mike Wiggins, Jr., Tribal Chairman (715) 682-7111

The Bad River Band, a federally-recognized Indian tribe in the Anishinabe territory of the Western Great Lakes Region of the United States, will meet with Professor James Anaya, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and leaders from other indigenous nations at a consultation on human rights on May 1st and 2nd, 2012, in Mission, South Dakota. The Bad River Tribal Council intends to raise awareness of the serious and immediate threats to human rights and damages to lands and waters posed by mining activities in Anishinabe territory.

The UN Special Rapporteur is engaged in an official visit to the United States that began on April 23 and will continue through May 4. The aim of his visit is to assess the human rights situation of indigenous peoples in the United States, with special consideration given to the recent endorsement of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the United States. The UN Special Rapporteur intends to compile a report on the human rights condition of indigenous peoples in the United States for the UN Human Rights Council and recommendations for the United States on how to address issues of ongoing concern to indigenous peoples.

The Bad River Band's meeting follows the submission, with the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, of a Statement of Information on Mining Activities Occurring in Anishinaabeg Territory to the UN Special Rapporteur filed [available here: [http://www.badriver-nsn.gov/images/stories/docs/activities\\_anishinaabeg.pdf](http://www.badriver-nsn.gov/images/stories/docs/activities_anishinaabeg.pdf)]. The Statement asserts that multi-national mining corporations active in Anishinabe territories have generated, and would continue to generate, billions of tons of toxic waste; toxic mining waste inevitably pollutes the air and waterways for generations, leads to the destruction of entire ecosystems and ultimately harms indigenous communities who depend on those ecosystems. International standards, including the UN Declaration, recognize indigenous' peoples' right to self-determination, including the right to determine their own priorities for development within their territories and the exercise of free, prior and informed consent regarding activities affecting their lands, territories and resources.

The Bad River Band sought a meeting with UN Special Rapporteur because mining activities could threaten the Band's very existence. According to Tribal Chairman Mike Wiggins Jr.: " The UN Declaration recognizes our right to protect our water and land, and keep it clean

for animals, fish, and future generations -- any threats to the ground water, surface water, air quality or way of life are a Tribe's call to action."

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