

## COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

### NEED FOR CANADIAN REGULATION OF CORPORATIONS OPERATING ON WESTERN SHOSHONE LANDS (CANADA)

The Western Shoshone Defense Project submits the Report on the Effects of Canadian Corporate Behavior on the Western Shoshone Peoples Located in the United States (“Report”).

Canadian corporations acting with the permission and inadequate oversight of the Canadian government are taking part in the ongoing, serious and persistent pattern of human rights violations against the Western Shoshone peoples of the Western Shoshone Nation, an indigenous people located within the United States of America. Specific examples are as follows:

- **Gold Mining.** Intimidation, harassment and denial of Western Shoshone access to traditional gathering and spiritual areas, in particular with regard to the culturally and spiritually significant area of Mt. Tenabo and Horse Canyon where the use of explosives and open pit gold mining activities is ongoing and expansion plans persist despite recommendations from international human rights bodies including the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and Canada’s own Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Current and planned gold mining activities are damaging and will outright destroy these areas. [Paragraphs 14-19 of Report]
- **Privatization Efforts.** Encouragement of federal efforts to privatize Western Shoshone lands for transfer to multinational extractive industries and energy developers, to the detriment of Western Shoshone. [Paragraphs 20-21 of Report]

Canada is in violation of the following articles of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights with respect to its inadequate regulation of Canadian corporations:

- **Rights to Self-Determination and Culture (Articles 1 and 15).** Irreconcilable destruction of spiritual areas. Intimidation, harassment and denial of Western Shoshone access to traditional gathering and spiritual areas. [Paragraphs 26-28 of Report]
- **Right to Health (Article 12).** Destruction of the Western Shoshone natural environment, including pollution of air, water, and food and denial of access to areas of spiritual and cultural significance. [Paragraphs 31, 33 of Report]
- **Right to Food and Water (Article 11).** Depletion and contamination of water and food sources. Harassment and intimidation in attempts to gather traditional foods. [Paragraphs 37-40 of Report]

The Western Shoshone Defense Project requests that this Committee enforce Canada’s obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Right and recommends that it take appropriate measures to ensure that Canadian corporate behavior on indigenous lands does not contribute to ongoing human rights violations against the Western Shoshone or other indigenous peoples.