

To whom it may concern;

I am writing this to express my grave concern on human rights defenders from the Temiar tribe, based in the northern Malaysian state of Kelantan, who have been facing threats of violence from a local company after they erected a blockade in February 2018 to protect their ancestral lands. The Temiars have been peacefully trying to prevent a company from developing durian and rubber clone projects in Pos Simpor, Kelantan. Indigenous human rights defenders face sustained intimidation and threats of physical violence.

I should call on authorities to investigate any complaint of harassment, threats and intimidation filed by the Temiar and bring those responsible to justice in accordance with national and international standards of due process.

I should also ask you to protect the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly of Indigenous human rights defenders.

You would be requested to consult with the Temiar, and other Orang Asli, in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent, before granting licences to companies wishing to exploit natural resources on Orang Asli land.

Your attention on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely,