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UN REPRESENTATIVES

Christophe Barbey (Geneva)
+41 79 524 35 74 / cb@apred.ch

CONTACTS

www.nonkilling.org
info@nonkilling.org
3653 Tantalus Drive
Honolulu, Hawai'i
96822–5033 United States

Human Rights Council
55th session.
Item 6. UPR of Tuvalu
Delivered by Christophe Barbey
Geneva, 22nd of March 2024

Beloved Human Beings,
Mister Vice-President,
Excellencies,
Dear people and authorities of Tuvalu,
Ladies and Gentlemen, Everyone
Greetings of lively rights,

The Convention on the Prevention and the Punishment of the Crime of Genocide must be ratified: they are no moral or ethical justifications not to do so. And ratification is rather simple: it implies commitment and good will, a change in the Criminal code – in Tuvalu it is done! –, a decision to ratify ideally by the Parliament, and a notification to the Secretary General of the United Nations.

Dear Tuvalu, we are surprised by your decision to note Armenia's recommendation regarding this ratification (81.35).

First, may we ask for some coherence and consistency? You noted such recommendation in the second cycle of the UPR, then accepted it in the third and now you note it again. Please dear delegation, can you explain your position? Thank you.

Secondly, more important, there is another reason why you should ratify the Genocide convention. When a whole Nation is wiped out of its land by climate change induced sea level rise, is it a genocide? Honestly, if we could take some of that excess water and put it into the deserts of our Earth – and maybe we can – I would be very happy for you in Tuvalu. Meanwhile, legally with the Genocide convention as it stands, it may be difficult to admit or prove that willful misrepresentation - not caring to halt climate change is an intent to commit genocide. Whatsoever, morally, the result of having to displace your entire population, the destruction of your nation, your land and partially your culture, with all the damages it implies, to me at least, it equals genocide.

Dear Tuvalu, please ratify the Genocide convention!
Thank you.

Thank you, Mister Vice-President.