

UNITED NATIONS



OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



Media Advisory

UN Expert on Indigenous People to visit Australia

11 August 2009

GENEVA / CANBERRA -- The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, James Anaya, will visit Australia, 17 to 28 August, at the invitation of the Government.

“During my the twelve-day mission, I will investigate and report on the major challenges faced by indigenous peoples of the country in the enjoyment of their human rights,” said Professor Anaya, “with a view toward contributing to steps to address those problems, as well as to identify good practices,”

The Special Rapporteur will travel to Canberra and to Adelaide, Perth, Alice Springs, Darwin, Groote Eylandt, Cairns, Sydney, and Brisbane to hold discussions with government representatives, indigenous communities and civil society groups on the human rights of indigenous peoples.

A press conference will be held in Canberra at the conclusion of the Special Rapporteur’s visit - on Thursday, 27 August, with additional information to follow. Professor Anaya will present the visit’s findings in a forthcoming session of the Human Rights Council.

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For additional information regarding the visit, please email: indigenous@ohchr.org.

For media requests during the visit, please contact Julia Dean (Tel: +61 412 102 128 / e-mail: julia.dean@unic.org).

The [Commission on Human Rights](#) decided to appoint in 2001 a Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, as part of the system of thematic [special procedures](#). The Special Rapporteur’s mandate was renewed by the Commission on Human Rights in 2004 and by the [Human Rights Council](#), which replaced the Commission, in 2007.

On 26 March 2008, the Human Rights Council appointed [Professor S. James Anaya](#) (United States of America), for an initial period of three years. Professor Anaya is the James J. Lenoir Professor of Human Rights Law and Policy at the University of Arizona (USA).

*For additional information on the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, see the website:
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/indigenous/rapporteur/>*

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