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To investors in the Storheia power plant

Tromsø, 11 December 2018

Statement regarding the Storheia power plant

The Norwegian Sami Association is deeply concerned with the Storheia power plant project. The project is considered by the Norwegian Sami Association to be in violation of the human rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the right to free, prior and informed consent, as recognized by the United Nations.

Considering the rights of indigenous peoples as mentioned above, members of the Áarjel Fovsen Njaarke reindeer herding district will almost certainly be denied their human rights as individuals and as a group if the project is implemented. This view is shared by the Sámi Parliament in Norway through a statement adopted the 4th of March 2016 in its plenary session, where it is clearly stated the companies and investors responsible for the Storheia power plant share a great responsibility to respect the human rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Parliament found it highly likely that Sami reindeer herders would be denied their right to practice their culture, and required that the wind park could not under any circumstance be established without the free, prior and informed consent of the concerned reindeer herding district.

The Saami Council and the reindeer herding district have delivered a complaint to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) on the Storheia power plant, and on 10 December 2018 the Committee requested the State party to suspend the construction of the power plant while the petitioners' case is under consideration by the Committee.

The Norwegian Sami Association demands that the State party, the developers and the investors take due steps to meet this request in compliance with international law.

Sincerely,

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Runar Myrnes Balto

President of the Norwegian Sami Association