

Excellency and honorable, the Italian Parliaments, Parliaments Committee Members, President of UNPO Mr. Marino Busdachin, UNPO Board Members, its secretariats, and distinguish guests.

My name is Anthony Ly, Vice President of the Congress of World Hmong People. Let me begin by saying thank you for your open hands and open hearts to our people in this very difficult time and situation.

Mr. President, I am here today with the privilege to deliver this message of Mr. Chong Lor Her to the Parliament Members and Committees:

It is an honor for me to have my International Representatives, Congress of World Hmong People conveying my messages considering me here with you, and secondly introduces myself. My situation here is as follows: my territories make it impossible for me to be there with you personally but I hope one day to meet all of you.

34 years ago, I was 18 and had the opportunity to serve my country for a short time in the Vietnam War that was spilled into Laos and ended in 1975.

The Lao PDR and Vietnamese governments violated the “Ceased Fire Agreement” which signed in Paris in 1972 and in Vientiane in 1973, not to wage any aggression toward any ethnics and all foreign troops to pull out from Southeast Asia, but sadly Vietnam did not. After 1975, the Lao PDR receives full military support from Vietnam and secretly launched attacks to the Hmong Indigenous People for having affiliation with the western during the Vietnam War that was spilled into Laos. As many Hmong people flooded into Thailand seeking asylums following General Vang Pao. My brother Zong Zoua Her, instead of following the general, formed the Resistance Party called, “ChaoFa Resistance Party” to comeback the Lao PDR aggressions toward our Hmong Indigenous People in May 25, 1975.

Since then, President Zong Zoua Her led many of our Hmong Indigenous to the Phou Bia Mountain as its combat base; today known as “Xaysombun Special Zone” which is a restricted

zone. It is a zone that arms conflict between the Hmong and Laotian that is still ongoing since 1975. It is a zone that we are defending our freedom and liberty against the Lao PDR aggressions and oppression without any international supports.

To this present time, our people have died in records, total more than 250,000 since 1975. They died of chemical poisons, starvations, capture and torture, murders, massacre and landmines. We are basically trying to live peacefully as our ancestors had taught us to be and we are but without a defense strategy. We are not on the offensive killing Lao people. The arms conflict muted at international levels; therefore, the Lao PDR continues denying of such conflicts between both nations; the Hmong Indigenous Federation and the Lao PDR. Not until several International Independent Journalists came into our territories and exposed our sufferings, the conflict begins to recognize by international community, human rights organizations, and NGOs.

After my brother Zong Zoua Her's death in 1998, I was successor of his position.

Mr. President, Parliament Members and Committees,

As of today at our territories, we cannot exercise our freedom of expressions, liberty, and religion to promote our economic, social, and cultural rights. The clashes between the Lao soldiers and our people are ongoing. We are constantly moving one place to another to avoid conflict and hunt by the Lao PDR soldiers. With no international humanitarian supports, therefore we must migrate into different locations. My people, including women and children are suffering greatly on social and physical devastations. The wounded persons have no medical supports and dependent on wild medicines for healing and very limited food sources. The majority of our food sources are mainly from tree roots and whatever we could find in the jungle. The killing of my people today is considered racial genocide and ethnic cleansing.

In 2009, my people have been poisoning by the Lao PDR seven times with unknown chemical poisons. They used Helicopter circling my territories 1000 feet above and spraying chemicals. The chemical spraying caused illness; symptoms include vomiting, swelling, burning, skin rashes, urines problem, blind, diarrhea, death and some other illness.

In the refugee camp of, Thankrabort, Thailand, 2005, mass graves desecration of the Hmong deceased, and it is a violation of our cultural and religion practices. The Thai dug our graves and the Lao PDR exterminating our people. To my understanding, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and UN Charters apply to all mankind; to have and to enjoy their freedom and liberty? Or does these rights only exit and apply to people who have a country?

My people at Huay Nam Khao and Nong Khai Detention Centers, Thailand, they are not “Economic Migrants” as was labeled by the Lao and Thai governments. They are people who face harassments, disappearance, past political affiliation, persecutions, and most importantly, people that I sent to seek help for. They are forced repatriation and sentence to death by both government secrete cooperation and agreement.

The forced deportation repatriation of our people by the Thai and Lao governments were for political gain and interests of our leaders and people. Both governments have party to the international laws but they choose to ignore international laws. They over ruled the laws and acted viciously over international voices and concerns in front achieving their political egoism.

Mr. President, Parliament Members and Committees,

I am aware that the war between us Hmong and Lao dictator regime had reached to the CERD Committee and to the Council on 19 September 2006. The Council Members and the communication committee had discussed whether to approve our Hmong Indigenous economic, social, and cultural rights and the right to self-determination. It failed to approve but with recommendation that an Independent Expert visit the location where we are taking refuge. Since then many women and children and have died of raped, tortured and murdered.

I am also aware that the Council and the CERD Committee had approved a visitation resolution for the Independent Export on Minority issues to visit our locations but continued to deny access to do so by the Lao PDR government up until this time and is still an ongoing denying process.

Two thousand years ago, our Hmong Indigenous population was 35 million (*I received an article called “Illustrated Encyclopedia of Knowledge, Marshall Cavendish Corporation, New York 1978, Aboriginal People, Page 1731”* from our International Representative, Congress of World Hmong People and it is also confirmed. Today the majority of our people have been assimilating into other races mostly the Chinese cultural, Vietnamese cultural, Laos cultural, Thai cultural, and mass population diaspora to the Western countries after 1975, which are now facing another cultural assimilations and integrations.

As we all are the children of God, we shall have the right of religion, preserve, and maintain our identity freely promoting our cultural to our children’s future without any interruption and discrimination.

I know you would agree with me on the importance of preserving one’s own cultural, religion, and identity freely without fear of destruction to benefit the richness that our mighty God who created us as human beings in which we are entitled to in respect of God’s consciousness.

I have confidence that the Parliament Members and Committees will exercise the power of truth, making a resolution to approve our Hmong Indigenous economic, social, and cultural rights and the right to self-determination once and for all ending the centuries of oppressions. In which it will be the best interest above all and for the well-being of our people.

I am appealing before you to help us taking this urgent matter to the Council Members and support our Hmong economic, social and cultural rights and right to self-determination pursuing to our founding father of the United Nations whom believe that all human beings shall have the right to live, freedom, and liberty of religion, social and cultural rights to pursue happiness. In ascend; it is the right thing to do to better improve the well-being of our people. Only political solution will solve these conflicts.

Thank you greatly for your time in this matter!

Sincerely, Chong Lor Her, President of Hmong Indigenous Federation of PhouBia, Xaysombun Special Zone”