



SpeakOut! Estonia

23rd-27th November 2012

UNPO Report



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About the Organizers



Founded in 1991 at the Peace Palace, in The Hague, **the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO)** is an international democratic nonviolent membership organisation which facilitates raising the voices of the unrepresented and marginalised nations and peoples worldwide. UNPO has consistently raised awareness of key issues through its reports and attendance at the United Nations Human Rights Council, the European Parliament and the Italian Senate. UNPO is committed to helping Members become more effectively involved in national, regional, and international mechanisms to find a voice to assert their concerns and opinions.

UNPO's Members consist of minority groups, indigenous groups and unrecognised or occupied peoples. UNPO works to address the consequences of marginalisation, working with its Members to promote their democratic causes, to provide information, and to articulate creative and nonviolent strategies for progress. Above all, UNPO works to ensure their voices are being heard. UNPO is unique as an international organization since it is built entirely by its Members. Through the strong connection to those suffering the consequences of the exclusion the organization seeks to address, UNPO has grown into a prominent and respected international forum, committed to offering an increasing number of nations and peoples an entry point into the international community and enabling its Members to learn from one another, lending their support where there are setbacks and sharing their experiences in success.

UNPO has continued its mission to bring representatives of nations and people together to find nonviolent solutions to the conflicts affecting their communities through projects such as SpeakOut! International Human Rights Training Programme, with the hope of achieving international solidarity. Working with its Members, UNPO has facilitated their increased involvement in mechanisms and institutions that allow their opinions and concerns to be voiced, at the same time helping these international mechanisms and institutions to fulfil their mandates.

While human rights violations often require context-specific action, a wide range of Members have gained knowledge of the options for action through training programmes provided by UNPO. Trainings take place upon request by Members. Continuity and transfer of knowledge and skills to the younger generation is considered fundamental to the work of UNPO. These trainings utilise the train-the-trainer technique, which has the benefit of a significant multiplier effect. UNPO's

initiatives focus on interactive training methods and problem-based learning, providing space for interactive dialogue.

UNPO's membership has grown steadily from its original fifteen founders to representing over 40 Members worldwide. In recent years the organisation has gained increasing media presence and faces growing demands from its Members. While the work of UNPO adapts continually to meet the challenges of its Members and the changing international political climate, Members must remain committed to the five principles enshrined in the UNPO Covenant: nonviolence, human rights, democracy and self-determination, environmental protection and tolerance.



The **Institute of the Rights of Peoples** was founded in 2003 as a successor of the Tartu Coordination Office of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation (UNPO). The Institute aims to study the rights of peoples as historically and territorially developed human populations and subjects of international law, to report these studies to the public, to draft basic legal documents on the rights of peoples, and to initiate discussion and adoption of these legal documents by relevant international organisations. The Institute of the Rights of Peoples continues to act as the UNPO's Tartu Coordination Office, but is not directly subordinate to UNPO.

Background to SpeakOut!

SpeakOut! is designed to bring together UNPO Member youth from a wide range of nations and backgrounds with an interest in human rights. The programme helps youth to develop mutual understanding and gain knowledge of human rights advocacy, while providing a forum to network with peers.

The aim of SpeakOut! is to successfully train young leaders to become human rights advocates. They are supported in this process through interactive workshops and UNPO-designed literature and study materials. As a result, participants become capable of re-teaching the skills and knowledge gained about United Nations tools and mechanisms, grassroots funding, and effective lobbying practices.

SpeakOut! participants develop Personal Action Plans to inspire youth in their home communities, further spreading the knowledge and tools gained at SpeakOut! to other UNPO Member youth.

In 2008, UNPO launched its first SpeakOut training in The Hague, the city where UNPO was founded nearly 20 years ago. SpeakOut! 2008 was aimed at training a new generation of human rights defenders, focused particularly on youth of Asian indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities.

SpeakOut! was held again in 2010 and 2011. Over the course of these workshops, participants had the opportunity to learn about government policies towards youth from H.E. Mr. Peter Goosen, Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa to the Netherlands and H.E. Mr. Roberto Sarmiento, Bolivian Ambassador to The Netherlands.

The first SpeakOut! of 2012 took place in the International City of Peace and Justice, The Hague, and was held at the Netherlands Institute of International Relations Clingendael, 8-10 August 2012. With support from the Haella Foundation, and the Clingendael Netherlands Institute of International Relations, SpeakOut! was a successful three-day international human rights training programme, focused on empowering the youth of UNPO Members to become agents of change for the future of their communities and nations. Over 30 participants from different indigenous groups and unrecognized nations joined UNPO for this event.

SpeakOut! Estonia

Programme

Friday, 23rd November 2012

Arrival in Tallinn. Welcome reception at 20:00 at the hotel.

Saturday, 24th November 2012

10.00 – 12.30 Introductory Speeches

- Welcoming address by M. Busdachin and S. Grünberg
- Andres Herkel, MP “Estonian way to independence”
- Mart Nutt, MP “Role of Parliament and parliamentary democracy in Estonia”

12:30 Excursion to the Museum of Occupations (English guide)

13.00-14.30 Lunch

15.00 - 19.00 Indigenous Rights in an International Context

- Dr. Mart Rannut, Integration Research Institute “The Right to Protect your Language”
- Andrus Mölder “Reception and Knowledge about Stateless Nations in Estonia”
- Chipamong Chowdhury "Minority Buddhist Rights and Protection in Bangladesh"

19.30 Dinner in the hotel

Sunday, 25th November 2012

Field Trip To Tartu

08.00 – 10.30 Departure for Tartu by bus

11.00 – 12.30 Excursion to the Museum of Tartu University with introduction of the history of the University

13.00 Lunch

14:00 Presentations, Ülikooli 16, room No 212

- Dr. Kristina Reinsalu “The Rise of E-Democracy”
- Dr. Märt Läänemets “Linnart Mäll and foundation of UNPO”

18.00 Departure for Tallinn

Monday, 26th November 2012

11:00-13:00 Conference on Tibetan issues

- Mr. Thubten Samdup, Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Central Tibetan Administration, The Office of Tibet
- Dr. Lauri Mälksoo, University of Tartu, Faculty of Law, Institute of Public Law, Chair of International Law and European Law „The Baltic States and Tibet: Some Parallels in International Law“
- Andres Herkel, MP
- Kristiina Ojuland, MEP

13:30 Lunch

15:00 Excursion in Tallinn (Guided by Martin Dišlis)

16:00 Excursion to Riigikogu, the Parliament of Estonia

18:00 Presentation of the book on His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama's three visits to Estonia,

Small Conference Center of the National Library of Estonia, Tõnismägi 2, 15189 Tallinn

Tuesday, 27th November 2012

Departure

Content

The training project was comprised of seminars exploring the protection of the rights of people, the value of nonviolence, democracy promotion and self-determination in today's interdependent world. Seminars included discussions between participants and experts on key issues affecting minority rights, democratic participation and engagement with political processes. A high level of trainer-trainee interaction led to animated training sessions in which expertise and experience was shared between trainees and experts.

The seminars were intended to draw upon Estonia's unique history and benefit from expertise from civil society, academia, and government in the areas of identity politics, self-determination, and nonviolence as a form of inclusive, positive and peaceful political activism.

Participants:



Youth: Young leaders participated in a programme of events **which combined** both trainings and seminars. They **came** from a variety of personal and professional backgrounds and brought with

them knowledge and experience from **around the world**. The SpeakOut! Estonia project included participants from Bulgaria, Mapuche, Iraqi Turkmen, and Iraqi Kurdistan – a rich cultural mix that the UNPO would **like** to continue in future **SpeakOut! Events**.

Local: Between ten and twenty local Estonian youth leaders and activists were a part of the programme and played a key role in providing networking opportunities for other youth involved in the training. Ensuring interaction between Estonian and international participants was a priority for the project and laid the foundation for future independent initiatives amongst the participants.



The good spirit rolled during the entire event. The participants exchanged their personal views and experiences. They received speeches and lectures from politicians, experts and scholars from Estonia and abroad.

Parliamentarians: Deputies and key figures in the Estonian administration were invited to participate in the event, drawing on their own experiences and that of Estonia throughout the seminars and training events. The participation of legislators gave youth leaders insight into policy-making and Estonia's peaceful transition to democracy.



Mart Nutt and Andres Herkel are Estonian politicians, Members of the Estonian Parliament since the 1990s. They shared their experience of the Estonian struggle for independence. Mr. Nutt gave an historic overview of parliamentary democracy in Estonia, while Mr. Herkel focused on Estonia's path to independence.



Mart Nutt, MP

Andres Herkel, MP

Academics: Seminars and trainings involved the participation of local experts and academics, putting participants in direct contact with key figures in the study of nonviolence, self-determination and the rights of peoples.

Andrus Mölder is a well-known Estonian journalist and host of various radio programmes about minorities. His daughter read his statement about the Reception and Knowledge about Stateless Nations in Estonia. He stressed the importance of freedom of speech and the use of non-mainstream communication channels.





*Dr. **Mart Rannut** is an internationally recognised linguist. His presentation focused on the importance of language issues for human rights, the linguistic rights of national minorities, Estonian language policy, the sociolinguistic situation in Estonia, and the language policy currently being implemented to restore the Estonian language. Dr. Rannut argued that linguistic human rights are rooted in several fundamental principles, including non-discrimination (equality before the law), communication rights (freedom of expression) and the right to communicate in one’s native language (mother tongue).*

***Chiapmong Chowdhury** is a researcher and Buddhist monastic activist. His presentation focused on minority Buddhist rights and protection in Bangladesh. He shared his personal experience of living as a monk in Bangladesh. He gave important insights about the Chittagong Hill Tracts’ ongoing struggle for autonomy and the current human rights issues in the region.*



Field trip to Tartu



During the visit to Tartu, the participants learnt about the history and important role of the University of Tartu in achieving Estonian independence. The trip included two lectures from Dr. Kristina Reinsalu and Dr. Märt Läänemets. Dr. Reinsalu spoke respectively about the rise of e-democracy in Estonia while Dr. Läänemets spoke about Linnart Mäll's contribution to the formation of the UNPO.

Conference on Tibetan Issues

SpeakOut! Estonia concluded with a conference on Tibetan issues. The key speakers were Mr **Thubten Samdup**, Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Central Tibetan



Administration, Dr **Lauri Mälksoo**, University of Tartu, **Kristiina Ojuland**, Member of European Parliament, and **Andres Herkel**, Member of Riigikogu, Chairman of the Tibet Support Group of Riigikogu. Among the participants of the conference was Mr **Arnold Rüütel**, the former President of Estonia.

Mr. **Thubten Samdup** gave an overview of the Tibetan government in exile. He emphasized that support for Tibet is needed inside China and could be gained by using the internet and social media to teach Chinese youth about the situation in Tibet. He reiterated the Dalai Lama's position that the Tibetan government in exile does not wish to secede from China, but to achieve autonomy for Tibet.



Dr **Lauri Mälksoo** made a comparison between the Baltic States and Tibet in International Law. Ms. **Kristiina Ojuland** shared her experience as Member of the European Parliament

and supporter of the Tibetan cause. She explained in detail the role of the European Parliament and her past involvement in the organization of three Tibet conferences held in the European Parliament.



Speaker Biographies



Marino Busdachin was elected as UNPO General Secretary in 2005. He was a UN representative in Geneva, New York and Vienna (1995-2000). He was a member of the Extra-ordinary Executive Board of the Transnational Radical Party (2000-2002), and is currently a member of the General Council of TRP. He led the TRP to recognition by the UN as an NGO of the first category, and led and coordinated the TRP in the former Yugoslavia (1991-1993) and in the Soviet Union (1989-1993). He founded the NGO “Non c’e’ Pace Senza Giustizia” in Italy (1994-1999), as well as founding and serving as President of No Peace Without Justice USA (1995-2000). Mr Busdachin campaigned for the establishment of the International Criminal Court, representing civil society at the Rome Conference founding the ICC and working to establish the ad hoc tribunals on war crimes in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. He campaigned against the US death penalty in the United Nations (1993) and campaigned for civil rights in Italy in the 1980s. He was elected in 1974 as a member of the Federal Council of the Radical Party and in 1978 as a member of the City Council of Trieste (1978-1982), where he attended Law University.



Andres Herkel began his public activities in the late 1980s. From the very beginning of the independence movement in Estonia, he affiliated himself with pro-independence forces, which had close ties with Soviet-era dissidents. He played an active role in building up free media in then-occupied Estonia and was among the founders of the Independent Info Centre in 1988. His alma mater is the University of Tartu, Estonia, where he obtained a first degree in psychology (cum laude, 1985) and an M.A. degree in history (1998, thesis on ancient Indian philosophy). He was greatly inspired by his then professor, well-known Estonian orientalist Linnart Mäll (1938-2010), whose work in the Unrepresented Peoples and Nations Organization (UNPO) he followed with keen interest. Andres Herkel began his professional career as researcher in the Estonian Institute of Pedagogical Research (1985-1989), followed by posts of editor of the literary journal *Vikerkaar* (1990-1991), editor-in-chief of *Eesti Elu/Kultuur ja Elu* (Estonian Life/Culture and Life) journal (1991-1992) and lecturer in the Estonian Institute of Humanities. From 1993-1999 he worked as Media Adviser in the Pro Patria faction of the Riigikogu (Estonian Parliament).



Sven Grünberg is an Estonian ambient and progressive rock composer and musician best known for his meditative organ and electronic works involving the concepts of Tibetan Buddhism. He has collaborated with the film director Olav Neuland and written the soundtracks for most of Neuland's films. In the 1970s, Grünberg was the leader of the progressive rock band Mess, which he began with Härmo Härm in January 1974. Despite years of live performances, Mess did not release a single studio album because their musical style was viewed as contradictory to Soviet ideology. Only in 1996 did Grünberg release a compilation from several survived Mess recordings and a full remastered album in 2004. Grünberg is also the Chairman of the Board of the Estonian Institute of Buddhism.



Mart Nutt has been a member of six successive Parliaments since 1992. Nutt is a member of the Constitutional Committee and European Union Affairs Committee. Mart Nutt is a 1985 graduate of the University of Tartu with a degree in history and ethnography and entered a graduate degree programme at the same institution in 1988. In 2011, Nutt defended his Ph.D. dissertation at Tallinn University of Technology on the topic "Development and application in foreign relations of the competence of Estonian Parliament". He has been a member of the supervisory board of the Estonian Institute of Human Rights since 2011. Mart Nutt was a member of United Nations Human Rights Council's Darfur mission 2007 and member of European Commission against Racism and Intolerance from the year 1998.



Chipamong Chowdhury is a contemplative researcher, promoter of transformative education, teacher of Asian humanities, and socially and politically engaged Buddhist monastic activist. He comes from an ethnic minority group in Bangladesh known as the Marma. He studied in Burma/Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Colorado, USA, and Canada from where he received graduate and post-graduate degrees in Buddhist and South Asian Studies.



Kristina Reinsalu is a Researcher at the University of Tartu, Faculty of Social Sciences and Education, Institute of Journalism and Communication. In 2009, Kristina defended her Ph.D. dissertation at University of Tartu on the topic "The Implementation of Internet Democracy in Estonian Local Governments". The field of her research is culture and society, more precisely the use of ICT in local government communications management.



Märt Läänemets is a Senior Researcher at the University of Tartu, Faculty of Philosophy, Institute of Culture Studies and Arts, Centre for Oriental Studies. In 2009, Märt defended his Ph.D. dissertation at University of Tartu on the topic "Gandavyuha-sutra kui ajalooallikas (The Gandavyuha-sutra as a Historical Source)". His field of research is culture and society and oriental studies. He is the President of the Estonian Oriental Society, member of the editorial board of the Acta Orientalia Vilnensia, co-ordinator of the University of Tartu's joint teaching module with Tallinn University and Tallinn Technical University entitled "Asian Societies, Economy and Politics", and board member of the Institute of Cultural Research and Arts of the UT.



Mart Rannut is an Estonian linguist. He is Lead Researcher at the Integration Research Institute in Estonia.



Thubten Samdup was born in Lhasa, Tibet. At the age of 8, Thubten fled the Chinese occupation with his parents and brother, escaping into India where he was placed in a government reception centre for Tibetan refugee children. This centre also housed the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts (TIPA), the first exile organization established by His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Thubten went on to become a teacher and the Institute's Director from 1979-80. He received a scholarship to study ethnomusicology at Brown University in Rhode Island, USA. Thubten later moved to Canada, where he was elected President of the Tibetan Cultural Association of Quebec and founded the Canada Tibet Committee, serving as its National President from 1987 to 2004. In 1990, Thubten became the first elected representative of Tibetans in North America to the Tibetan Parliament in-exile. Thubten is one of the "Committee of 100 for Tibet", an international organization of eminent persons comprised of several internationally known personalities including seven Nobel Peace Laureates. Thubten was appointed as Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama for Northern Europe in March 2009.



Kristiina Ojuland is an Estonian politician. She is a Member of the Estonian Reform Party and has been a Member of the European Parliament since 2009. She was the Foreign Minister of Estonia from 2002 to 2005.



Lauri Mälksoo is a Professor of International Law at the University of Tartu and an Adviser to the Chancellor of Justice of the Republic of Estonia. His main areas of research are Public International Law (especially history and theory of international law and the understanding of international law in Russia) and Human Rights Law.

Media Coverage

UNPO Website

<http://www.unpo.org/article/15138>

SpeakOut! Estonia- Young Leaders Training Project



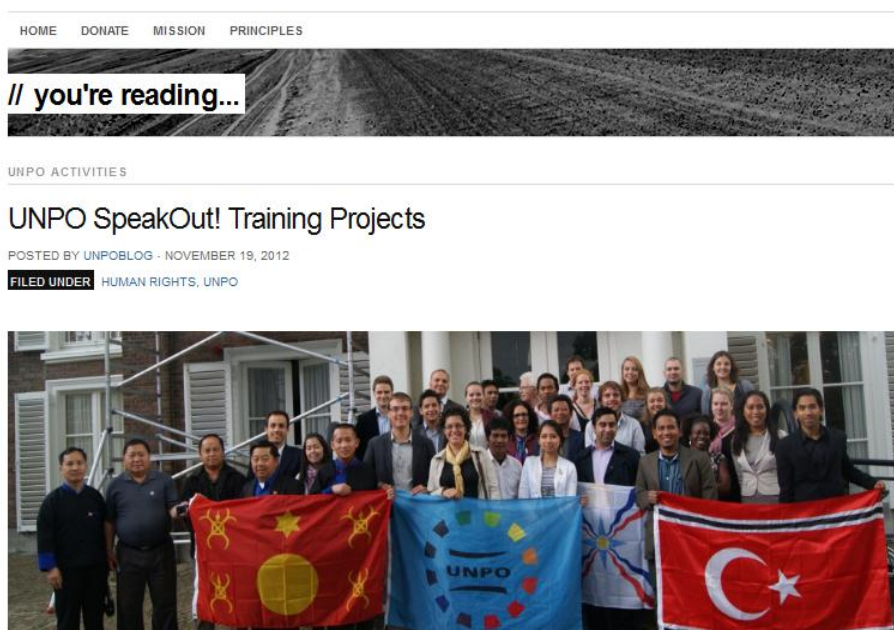
SPEAKOUT! ESTONIA

**Young Leaders
Training Project**

23 – 27 November 2012
Tallinn - Tartu

UNPO Blog

<http://unpoblog.wordpress.com/2012/11/19/unpo-speakout-training-projects/>



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UNPO SpeakOut! Training Projects

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26 November 2012, Ohtuleht: Eestis on külas Tiibeti kõrge esindaja Thubten Samdup
(High-ranking Tibetan official is visiting Estonia)

<http://www.ohtuleht.ee/500984>

REKLAAM> Müüme lao tühjaks! Viimased Delli sülearvutid hinnaga € 349

Eestis on külas Tiibeti kõrge esindaja Thubten Samdup

Toimetas Kristin Aasma
26. november 2012, 09:43

Soovita 0



Täna viibib Eestis Tiibeti Keskadministratsiooni ja Tema Pühaduse dalai-laama eriesindaja Thubten Samdup, kes kohtub Riigikogu liikmetega ning osaleb erinevatel üritustel.

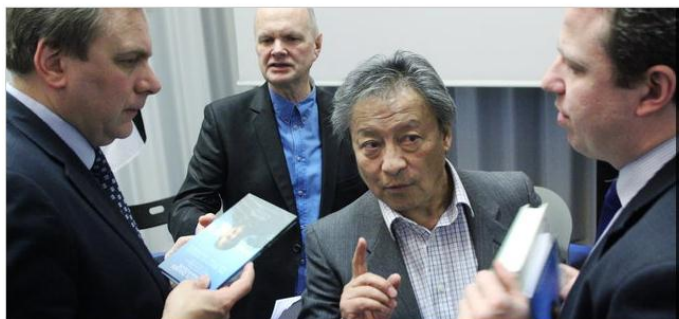
Õhtulehe küsimusele, kas Thubten Samdup kohtub ka valitsuse esindajatega, vastas Andres Herkel, et Samdupil oli ees kohtuda välisministri...



26 November 2012, Postimees: Galerii: Eestit väisas dalai-laama eriesindaja
(Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama visited Estonia)

<http://www.postimees.ee/1054282/galerii-eestit-vaisas-dalai-laama-eriesindaja/>

Galerii: Eestit väisas dalai-laama eriesindaja ⁽⁶⁾



Eestit külastas dalai-laama eriesindaja

26 November 2012, Postimees: Eestisse saabus Tiibeti kõrge esindaja Thubten Samdup
(High-ranking Tibetan official Mr. Thubten Samdup arrived in Estonia)

<http://www.postimees.ee/1053338/eestisse-saabus-tiibeti-korge-esindaja-thubten-samdup/>

Eestisse saabus Tiibeti kõrge esindaja Thubten Samdup ⁽³⁾



Londonis resideeruv Thubten Samdup.

**26 November 2012, Delfi: Eestisse saabus Tiibeti kõrge esindaja Thubten Samdup
(High-ranking Tibetan official Mr. Thubten Samdup arrived in Estonia)**

<http://www.delfi.ee/news/paevauudised/eesti/eestisse-saabus-tiibeti-korge-esindaja-thubten-samdup.d?id=65317516>

Eestisse saabus Tiibeti kõrge esindaja Thubten Samdup ⁽⁵⁾

www.DELFI.ee
26. november 2012 09:10



Täna viibib Eestis Tiibeti keskadministratsiooni ja Tema Pühaduse dalai-laama eriesindaja Thubten Samdup, kes kohtub riigikogu liikmetega ning osaleb erinevatel üritustel.

Algusega kell 11 toimub okupatsioonide muuseumis Tiibeti-teemaline konverents, kus esinevad lisaks Thubten Samdupile rahvusvahelise õiguse



Foto: Ilmar Saabas

27 November 2012, the Parliament of Estonia: *Tibet Support Group: Tibet Question Needs Solution*

<http://www.riigikogu.ee/index.php?id=174858>

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Working Schedule

Riigikogu

Work of the Riigikogu

Tibet Support Group: Tibet Question Needs Solution

Thubten Samdup, Special Envoy of the Central Tibetan Administration and of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, has just visited Estonia where he participated in a conference on Tibet and gave an overview of the positions of the Tibetan exile government, the Tibet Support Group of the Riigikogu express their growing concern.

27 November 2012, Postimees: Riigikogu toetusrühm avaldas muret Tiibeti olukorra pärast (Tibet Support Group of the Estonian Parliament expressed concern about the situation in Tibet)

<http://www.postimees.ee/1054876/riigikogu-toetusruhm-avaldas-muret-tiibeti-olukorra-parast>

EESTI UUDISED — Tekst väiksemaks + Tekst suuremaks

Avaldatud 27.11.2012 kell 11:57

Riigikogu toetusrühm avaldas muret Tiibeti olukorra pärast



Thubten Samdup viibis Eestis seoses eile toimunud Tiibeti-teemalise konverentsiga.
Foto: Toomas Huik / Postimees



The Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) is an international, nonviolent, and democratic membership organization founded in 1991. Its members are indigenous peoples, minorities, and unrecognised or occupied territories who have joined together to protect and promote their human and cultural rights, to preserve their environments, and to find nonviolent solutions to conflicts which affect them.