

August 1, 2017

The Honorable Rafael Dario Ramirez Carreño  
Chairman  
Special Committee on Decolonization (C-24)  
United Nations

*Håfa Adai* Chairman Carreño:

Recently, the executive director of our island's Commission on Decolonization attended the 2017 Caribbean Regional Seminar on Decolonization in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, on my behalf. During the seminar, there was significant discussion about sending visiting missions to non-self-governing territories, as was done in the past, in an effort to help facilitate the eradication of colonialism.

Despite Guam being one of the 17 non-self-governing territories recognized by the United Nations, our administering power, the United States, has yet to facilitate a visiting mission to our island. In light of this, as Governor of Guam and the Chairman of the Commission on Decolonization, I formally request a visiting mission to Guam.

For several years, we have worked toward educating our community in preparation for a self-determination plebiscite. However, we now face legal challenges after a U.S. federal court ruled that our political status plebiscite is unconstitutional. In light of this, a visiting mission will be an effective way to further ascertain preliminary actions necessary for a U.S. and UN approved plebiscite that will make known the will of the people of Guam. As was mentioned in the Resolution Concerning Guam that was approved by the Special Committee on Decolonization during its substantive session:

... The wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people...

While the court ruling currently hinders the ability of the native inhabitants on Guam to conduct a plebiscite on the island's political status, we feel a visiting mission will draw attention to Guam's current obstacles in achieving self-government, while also helping us maintain the momentum that we have established in the decolonization process. A visiting mission will also assist the people of our island in the development of a UN approved process of self-determination for Guam.

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Also noted in the Resolution Concerning Guam, we must be:

Mindful that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the people of Guam and to fulfill its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the United States of America as the administering Power and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territory, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territory...

A visiting mission is an appropriate source for the Special Committee to receive information that will enhance the understanding of Guam's political status. And as we near the end of the Third International Eradication of Colonialism, we strongly believe that a visiting mission to Guam will encourage our administering power to be more engaged in the decolonization process, and increase international cooperation and engagement in the United Nations' goal of eradicating colonialism.

I look forward to hearing from you about our request.

*Senseramente,*

**EDDIE BAZA CALVO**  
Governor of Guam