

IWI CHAIRS FORUM HUI WITH UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples, Professor James Anaya (the Special Rapporteur) has requested a meeting with the Iwi Chairs Forum during his 2010 country visit. This is a warm invitation to all Iwi Chairs across the country to attend a hui with the Special Rapporteur to discuss the work of the Iwi Chairs Forum and the key issues affecting the human rights situation of Iwi Māori in New Zealand at this time.

When: 21st July 2004

**3.30pm — mihi whakatau/powhiri for Iwi
Chairs**

**4pm — mihi whakatau/powhiri for
Special Rapporteur**

Where: Tamaki Makaurau (Auckland)

Venue to be advised

Background

The Special Rapporteur visited New Zealand in 2005 and released a powerful report on the human rights situation of Iwi Māori that included findings and recommendations human rights concerns around constitutional issues, Treaty Settlements, Iwi/hapū rights to lands and natural resources, criminal justice issues and social justice issues.

This visit is a follow up to that report, for the Special Rapporteur to assess whether, and if so how, New Zealand has improved in its treatment of the human rights of Iwi Maori. The Special Rapporteur has only a few days in the country, and would like to meet with the Iwi Chairs Forum to discuss the priority issues for Iwi/hapū/whānau at this time, and the views of Iwi on how well the New Zealand has done over the last five years.

The Special Rapporteur in 2005 was Rodolfo Stavenhagen. Professor James Anaya has now been appointed to the role. James Anaya is the American James J. Lenoir Professor of Human Rights Law and Policy at the University of Arizona's James E. Rogers College of Law. In March 2008, he was appointed by the United Nations as its Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples. He teaches and writes in the areas of international human rights, constitutional law, and issues concerning indigenous peoples.

Professor Anaya has served as a consultant for organizations and government agencies in numerous countries on matters of human rights and indigenous peoples, and he has represented indigenous groups from many parts of North and Central America in landmark cases before courts and international organizations. He was the lead counsel for the indigenous parties in the case of *Awatitlan v. Nicaragua*, in which the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for the first time upheld indigenous land rights as a matter of international law.^[3] In addition, he directed the legal team that successfully achieved a judgment by the Supreme Court of Belize affirming the traditional land rights of the Maya people of that country.

Further information can be found at:

www.iwichairs.maori.nz – which has a background paper on the Special Rapporteur, the report following the 2005 country visit, and the Iwi Chairs Forum.

<http://unsr.jamesanaya.org/> - which is the home page for the Special Rapporteur

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/indigenous/rapporteur/> which is the United Nations official site for the Special Rapporteur.