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Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes

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UNREPRESENTED NATIONS & PEOPLES ORGANIZATION
unpo.org

The Honorable Tina Rose Muna Barnes
Speaker, 35th Guam Legislature
Via Electronic Mail: speaker@guamlegislature.org

6 September 2019

Dear Madam Speaker

Re: Guam's Membership to UNPO

Thank you for your letter of September 4th and for your interest in the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO), which I read with the utmost interest.

A lack of a seat at the United Nations (UN), combined with a similar lack of equal representation in the Congress of the United States of America (USA) leaves the people of Guam exposed and vulnerable. Addressing such vulnerabilities, and building a community of support to address them, has long been at the very core of the UNPO. We have had many members in similar situations to your own who have found the UNPO to be a useful part of their campaigns, including the people of Palau, East Timor, Taiwan, and, of course, the District of Columbia. As a result, we have been closely following the movement for self-determination in Guam.

Indeed just last week we had reported on your march for self-determination in order to raise awareness of it (*see* https://unpo.org/article/21634). Moreover, at this very time, we are writing an alternative report to the United Nations (UN) Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on the USA to highlight the situation of citizens and nationals who are denied an equal voice and participation in the US Congress. We intend to include information on Guam in this report.

As you correctly referenced, it is unfortunate that the campaigns of Alaskan and Hawaiian peoples have been included in prior UPR reports and not those of the people actively denied equal engagement in the US Constitutional order. We are hoping to rectify this with the UPR alternative report and would be delighted if the government of Guam, or a relevant civil society organization, would join onto this report, due to be submitted on September 19th.

Beyond this report, it is wonderful to learn of your interest in membership of the UNPO. I believe that there is much that the people of Guam can gain from membership of the UNPO. Enclosed with this letter is an outline of the membership criteria and process. I can make myself available at your convenience to discuss this further if you so desire.

Yours sincerely,

Ralph J. Bunche
General Secretary, UNPO

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