

I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
255-35 (LS)	Tina Rose Muña Barnes Joe S. San Agustin Kelly Marsh (Taitano), PhD Amanda L. Shelton Jose "Pedro" Terlaje	Relative to supporting Guam's application for membership to the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO).	11/14/19 10:16 a.m.			11/14/19	To Author.	12/12/19 4:00 p.m.	1/17/20 6:02 p.m.	



Office of the Speaker
TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Committee on Public Accountability, Human Resources, and the Guam Buildup

January 17, 2020

The Honorable Régine Biscoe Lee

Chairperson

I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan

35th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building

163 Chalan Santo Papa

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

RE: Author Report on Resolution No. 255-35 (LS)

Dear Chairperson Biscoe Lee:

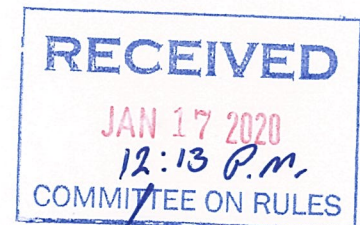
Transmitted herewith is the Author Report on Resolution No. 255-35 (LS) – Relative to supporting Guam's application for membership to the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO).

Si Yu'os Ma'åse',

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

Chairperson

2020 JAN 17 PM 6:02



Revision's Rec'd: 1/17/20 @ 7pm.



Address: 163 W. Chalan Santo Papa Hagåtña, GU 96910

Phone: (671) 477-2520/2521 / Email: speaker@guamlegislature.org / Website: www.guamlegislature.org



Office of the Speaker

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Committee on Public Accountability, Human Resources, and the Guam Buildup

AUTHOR'S REPORT

Resolution No. 255-35 (LS)

Tina Rose Muña Barnes / Joe S. San Agustin / Kelly
Marsh (Taitano), PhD / Amanda L. Shelton / Jose
“Pedro” Terlaje

Relative to supporting Guam's application
for membership to the Unrepresented
Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO).



Senator Régine Biscoe Lee,
Chair

Senator Amanda L. Shelton,
Vice Chair

Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes,
Member

Vice Speaker Telena Cruz Nelson,
Member

Senator Kelly Marsh (Taitano), PhD,
Member

Senator Sabina Flores Perez,
Member



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I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
35TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

November 14, 2019

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Senator Joe S. San Agustin,
Member

Senator Jose "Pedro" Terlaje,
Member

Senator Therese M. Terlaje,
Member

Senator James C. Moylan,
Member

Senator Mary Camacho Torres,
Member and Chair, Subcommittee on Protocol

MEMO

To: Rennae Meno
Clerk of the Legislature

Attorney Ana Won Pat-Borja
Legislative Legal Counsel

From: Senator Régine Biscoe Lee
Chair, Committee on Rules

Re: Referral of Resolution No. 255-35 (LS)

Buenas yan Háfa adai.

As per my authority as Chair of the Committee on Rules, I am forwarding the referral of Resolution No. 255-35 (LS).

Please ensure that the subject resolution is referred to **Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, author of Resolution No. 255-35 (LS).**

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mary Maravilla, Committee on Rules Director at 472-2461.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Senator Régine Biscoe Lee
Chair, Committee on Rules

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Stephanie Lorenzo <stephanie.speakertmb@gmail.com>

FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing - December 12, 2019

1 message

Speaker's Office <speaker@guamlegislature.org>
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org

Tue, Dec 3, 2019 at 10:09 AM

December 3, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators, Media, and Stakeholders

FROM: Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, *Author*

SUBJECT: FIRST NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING –
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019

Bueñas yan Håfa Adai! Please be advised that the Office of Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes will convene a Public Hearing on **Thursday, December 12, 2019, beginning at 4:00 PM** in *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* Public Hearing Room. The Author will hear and accept testimony for the following item on the Agenda:

- **Resolution No. 255-35 (LS)** – Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Joe S. San Agustin, Kelly Marsh (Taitano), PhD., Amanda L. Shelton, and Jose “Pedro” Terlaje

RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING GUAM'S APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE UNREPRESENTED NATIONS AND PEOPLES ORGANIZATION (UNPO).

Written testimonies may be delivered to the Office of Speaker Tina Muña Barnes at **163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910** or via email to speaker@guamlegislature.org. Copies of testimonies submitted forty-eight (48) hours prior to the hearing will be available to the public at the hearing.

In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring assistance or accommodations should contact the Office of Speaker Muña Barnes by phone call at 477-2520/1 or via email at speaker@guamlegislature.org.
Si Yu'us Ma'åse'!

*Sinseru yan Minagåhet,*

Office of the Speaker • Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Committee on Public Accountability, Human Resources & the Guam Buildup

35th Guam Legislature
I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Guam Congress Building | **163 Chalan Santo Papa | Hagatna, GU 96910**
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Gumai pribilehu yan konfedensia este siha na mensâhi. Solo espesiâtmente para hâgu ma entensioña pat ma aturisa para unrisibi. Sen prubidu kumu ti un ma aturisa para manribisa, na'setbe, pat mandespâtcha. Yanggen lachi rinisibu-mu nu este na mensâhi , put fabot ago' guatu gi I numa'huyong gi as speaker@guamlegislature.org yan despues destrosa todû siha I kopian mensâhi. Si Yu'os ma'âse'.

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Resolution No. 255-35 (LS) Memorandum_FIRST NOTICE.pdf

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Office of the Speaker
TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
I Mina' Trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guahan



December 3, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators, Media, and Stakeholders

FROM: Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, *Author*

SUBJECT: FIRST NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING –
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Stephanie Lorenzo <stephanie.speakertmb@gmail.com>

SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing - December 12, 2019

1 message

Speaker's Office <speaker@guamlegislature.org>
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org

Tue, Dec 10, 2019 at 2:59 PM

December 10, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators, Media, and Stakeholders

FROM: Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, *Author*

SUBJECT: SECOND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING –
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019

Bueñas yan Håfa Adai! Please be advised that the Office of Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes will convene a Public Hearing on **Thursday, December 12, 2019, beginning at 4:00 PM** in *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*'s Public Hearing Room. The Author will hear and accept testimony for the following item on the Agenda:

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Si Yu'us Ma'åse'!

*Sinseru yan Minagåhet,*

Office of the Speaker • Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Committee on Public Accountability, Human Resources & the Guam Buildup

35th Guam Legislature
I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan

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Reso No. 255-35 (LS) Memorandum_SECOND NOTICE.pdf
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Office of the Speaker
TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
I Mina'Trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guahan



December 10, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators, Media, and Stakeholders

FROM: Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, *Author*

SUBJECT: SECOND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING –
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019

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Office of the Speaker

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

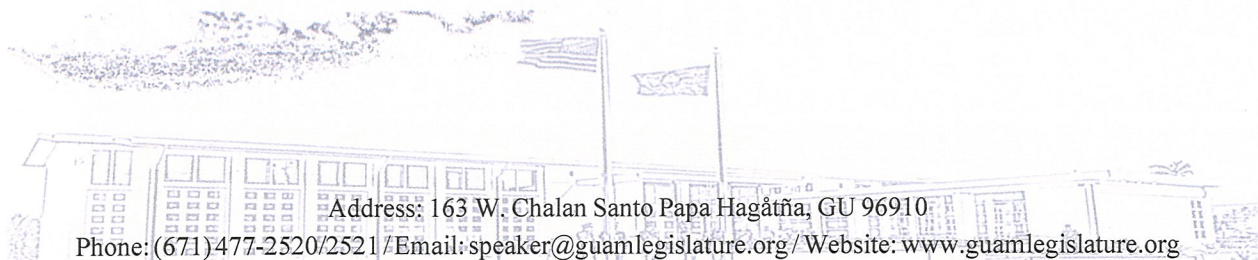
AGENDA

Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 4PM

Public Hearing

Resolution No. 255-35 (LS) - Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Joe S. San Agustin, Kelly Marsh (Taitano), Ph.D., Amanda L. Shelton, Jose "PEDO" Terlaje

Relative to supporting Guam's Application for membership to the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO).



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TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

Speaker, 35th Guam Legislature

Public Hearing

Thursday, December 12, 2019, 4pm

I Liheslaturan Guåhan, Public Hearing Room

Resolution No. 255-35 (LS) - Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Joe S. San Agustin, Kelly Marsh (Taitano), Ph.D., Amanda L. Shelton, Jose "PEDO" Terlaje
Relative to supporting Guam's application for membership to the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO).

	Name	Agency/ Organization	Oral Testimony	Written Testimony	Support	Not in Support	Contact Information
③	Amarah San Nicolas	University of Guam					* left early
④	Jay T. Similio	University Guam					* left early
✓	Sen. Paul Strauss (via skype)	DC - USSenate			✓		
✓	Angely Sema (via Skype)	DC-Statehood			✓		
✓	Sect. General Ralph Bunce	UNPO			✓		
②	Michael Bevarghna		X		X		968 7106 - mbevarghna @kathleen.com
⑤	GWENDOLYN YANGER	PPI	X	X			
⑥	Seungho Kang	PPI	X	X	X		689-8777

⑦ Melvin Borja EDno: Deedongbatu

1 out of 2



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TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

Speaker, 35th Guam Legislature

Public Hearing

Thursday, December 12, 2019, 4pm

I Liheslaturan Guåhan, Public Hearing Room

Resolution No. 255-35 (LS) - Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Joe S. San Agustin, Kelly Marsh (Taitano), Ph.D., Amanda L. Shelton, Jose "PEDO" Terlaje
Relative to supporting Guam's application for membership to the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO).

Name	Agency/ Organization	Oral Testimony	Written Testimony	Support	Not in Support	Contact Information
✓ Melvin WonPat-Borja	Commission on Decolonization	✓		✓		475-9545 / melvin.borja@gmail.com
✓ Analina Koh	PPI HCA	✓	✓			864-8993 / analinakoh@gmail.com
Darren Caldwell	UOG			✓		483-8526 / dpcaldwell2018@gmail.com
✓ Lope Cristobal	Self	✓				
✓ Jonathan Guerrero	Independent Guianan	✓	✓			482-8525

2 out of 2



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Tinestigu put Resolution 255-35 (LS)
By Michael Lujan Bevacqua, Ph.D.
December 12, 2019

Buenas yan Håfa Adai mansenådores guini gi este na gefpå'go na ha'åni, pi'ot hågu Speaker Muña Barnes. I na'ån-hu si Michael Lujan Bevacqua. Profesot yu' gi Programan Inestudion Chamorro gi Unibetsedat Guåhan yan co-gehilo' yu' para I inetnon kumunidåt "Independent Guåhan." Lao guini på'go gi me'nan-miyu ti hu kuentusisiyi ayu siha. Mantestitigu yu' guini på'go komo un Chamoru yan taotao Guåhan.

(Hello Senators here on this beautiful day, especially you Speaker Muña Barnes. My name is Michael Lujan Bevacqua. I'm a professor in Chamorro Studies at UOG and also a co-chair for the community group Independent Guåhan. I am not here today to speak for any of these association. I am testifying here today as a Chamoru and a person of Guam.)

Hu sapopotte este maproponi na bill, Resolution No. 255-35 (LS) ni' sumapopotte i hinalom-ña iya Guåhan gi i gurupu Unrepresented Nations and People Organization (UNPO). Hagas manestutudia yu' put i hestoria-ta ya taimanu manmakolonisa, ya apmam macho'cho'cho' yu' lokkue' gi kumunidåt guini yan gi otro bånda put i u madekoloniså-ña i tano'-ta. Put todú este na sinisedi-hu yan inestudia-ta (inaligao-hu), hinassosso-ku na maolek na pokkat este gi chalån-ta mo'na komo un isla, ni' kumekegu'ot ta'lo i derecho-ta.

(I am in support of this proposed bill, Resolution No. 255-35 which supports the inclusion of Guam in the group UNPO. I have long studies the history of Guam we have been colonized and I've been working for a long time in the community here and elsewhere on how it can be decolonized. Because of all these experiences and my research, I feel that this could be a good step on our path forward, as an island that seeks to seize our rights.)

Este na inetnon, I UNPO, siña ha ayuda muna'laoppan i bos-ta yan muna'la'annok i asunto-ta siha para i taotao gi sanlagu yan gi todú otro tåno' siha lokkue'.

(This organization, UNPO can help to make more audible our voice and also make more visible our issues to people in the states and elsewhere.)

Ma'establesi i UNPO gi 1991. I hinangai-ña na ha ayuda mannå'i bos guatu para ayu siha ni' taibos. Tåya' maolek na palabra gi fino' Chamoru para lobby, lao ha aguguiguiyi i membro-ña gi pison internationat. Ha choneneki siha ni' asunton-ñiha yan nisisidåt-ñiha gi halom dinanña' yan konfrensia gi todú i mundo. Kuarentai kuarto på'go i membro-ña siha, ya ha represesenta mas ki tres sientu miyones na taotao gi hilo' tåno'.

(The UNPO was established in 1991. Its purpose is to help give voice to those that are without. There isn't a good word in Chamoru for lobby, but this group takes the side of its members at the international level. It promotes on behalf of its members, their issues and needs in different gatherings and conferences around the world. It currently has 44 members and they represent more than 300 million people in the world.)

Gi 1992, Michael Van Walt, co-founder and former Secretary General of the UNPO
kumuentos put sa' hãfa ma establesi este na otganision:

I find it absolutely unbelievable...that people like the Tibetans, the Kurds and the
elected leaders of Burma are not included in international discussions about their
own fates. Each nation should have the right to decide its own destiny and to
manage its own environment.

Kalang este matungo' este na sentimento guini giya Guãhan no? Maseha hãfa i asunto,
manaigue hit gi kareran disision. Taigue i bos-ta, taigue i minalago' i taotao guini gi taimanu
yan mãnu i disision siha madiside. I military buildup, i Jones Act, immigration policy,
environmental policy, meggai na hemplo. Kada mamtek hao gi inai, guaha mãs hemplo, put
taimanu na manaidirecho hit guini.

(It's kind of like a familiar feeling to us in Guam no? Any time of issue, we are absent in the
discussion. Our voice isn't there. Absent as well are the desires of the people here in terms
of how and where decisions are made. Everytime you kick up sand, there are more
examples about how we are without rights here in Guam.)

Este na inetnon, kapãs manayuyuda taotao taiguini (mangkeyao taiguini giya Hita). Mirasa,
mitkottura, mikilot i manmembro-ña. Ti ma u'usa i parehu na lengguãhi. Ti mamparehu todú
i kotturan-ñiha. Manachago' siha lokkue' gi kada rikon gi mundo. Lao todú i membro
manu'unu put i fundamenton na tinaigue yan tinaya' gi lina'la'-ñiha pã'go. Annai ma'arekla i
mappan i mundon pã'go, manaigue siha. Manaigue gi lamasan nasion siha. Manaigue gi
kokmbetsaion gi entre i mannasiones siha pã'go.

(This organization is capable of helping people like us. Diverse, multi-cultural, its
membership makes up many shades of people. They don't all use the same language. They
don't share the same culture. They are all far apart from each other in different corners of
the world. But all members are united by a fundamental lack or limitation in their lives
today. When the map of the world was put together, they weren't there. They are absent at
the table of independent countries. They are absent in the conversation amongst the
countries today.)

Pues i gubetnamento yan nasion siha ni' manhuhuyong gi 20th century, ti mismo ma
representa este na taotao. Hunggan este na gubetnamento, ma u'usa i tano'-ñiha este na
membron UNPO. Ma lalachi i guinihan-ñiha taiguihi lâña pat prisinu na minerât. Achokka'
ma fa'gaibali i tano' yan i guiniha siha, ti ma fa'taotao i mismo taotao guihi gi ayu na
tãno' siha.

(the governments and countries that emerged in the 20th century, don't truly represent
these peoples. Yes, these government are using their lands. They are extracting their
resources, because of things like oil or precious minerals. Although these governments treat
the land and its resources as valuable, they don't treat the people of those lands with
dignity.)

Put i strategic important i tano', pat i prisisu na guinihan gi edda' pat hãnom siha, put taiguini yan otro rason siha, ti ma fa'taotao este na klasen taotao. Ti ma respeta i direchon-ñiha put ditetminan maisa pat komo taotao.

(Because of the strategic value of their lands or the precious resources in their soil and waters, and other reasons like this, they are not treated with dignity. Their rights for self-determination and human rights in general aren't respected.)

Gi i espiriton este na resolution, nina'hahasso yu' ni pinagat as Maga'låhi Hurao, annai ha eppok i Chamoru gi tiempo-ña na u fanachu kontra i Españot. Ilek-ña "Metgotña hit ki ta hasso." We are stronger than we think gi Fino' Ingles. Sesso hu sangåni i taotao Guåhan este. Lao ti kabåles gi minagahet. Hunggan manmetgotña hit ki pine'lo-ta, lao manmetgotña hit anggen ti hita ha'. Maolekña manhihita yan otro taotao yan nasion siha.

(In the spirit of this resolution, I am reminded of the speech of Chief Hurao, when he was encouraging the Chamorus to stand against the Spanish. He said, "We are stronger than we think." I often remind people in Guam about this saying. But in truth it is incomplete. It is true that we may be stronger than we assume, but we are also stronger if it isn't us alone. We are better together, united with others.)

Si Yu'os Ma'åse

UNPO Public Hearing
12/12/19
Guam Legislature
Melvin Won Pat-Borja
Executive Director
Commission on Decolonization
ATTN: Speaker Tina Muña Barnes

Hafa Adai,

Guåhu si Melvin Won Pat-Borja. I am the Executive Director of the Commission on Decolonization. My statement reflects my professional opinion based on our current and historical efforts for decolonization in Guam.

Allow me to begin with a brief history of our decolonization efforts on Guam and how we found our way to the United Nations in this regard. The Commission on Decolonization was preceded by a similar body called the Commission on Self Determination. During Governor Joseph Ada's administration, we engaged the federal government (almost exclusively) in an attempt to resolve Guam's political status issue and negotiate a new status for Guam. At that time, the people of Guam, through referendum, chose commonwealth and the Government of Guam proceeded to push the Guam Commonwealth Draft Act in Congress. Unfortunately, we could not reconcile our differences with the federal government over issues of immigration and mutual consent and subsequently the Commonwealth Draft Act never even made it out of committee. These failed political status negotiations ended in 1997 and served as a critical impetus for GovGuam to reassess our strategy moving forward. The Commission on Self Determination was dissolved and replaced with new legislation that formed the Commission on Decolonization. This was also the time that the Government of Guam began to deliberately engage the United Nations in an effort to amplify our voices both internationally and domestically (Guam had previously engaged the UN, but not as deliberately as a Government).

In my research and experience, I believe that there is great value in engaging the United Nations because as a non self governing territory, we have no meaningful representation within the federal system. We have seen how this systemic silencing has impacted our ability to bring peaceful resolution to our desire for decolonization and self determination. The United Nations has engaged deliberately in advocating for the eradication of colonialism around the world and Guam could definitely benefit from continued efforts in this regard.

Unlike many other non self governing territories, one of Guam's strengths at the United Nations is that our government has taken a very clear stance on decolonization and self-determination, which is not linked to partisan politics. Additionally, Guam has been extremely consistent in our engagement with the United Nations over the last 21 years. I have personally been told by UN staff that our willingness to continue our work on the international stage year after year, has enriched Guam's identity and reputation in the international arena. Unfortunately, Guam is

still a non self governing territory and we are not voting members at the United Nations. Our foreign relations and international negotiations are almost non existent because they are conducted without us at the table.

Though we remain committed to this work and we do not have plans to abandon these efforts, it remains nonetheless a daunting and costly task. We currently limit our UN engagement to the Special Committee on Decolonization (Committee of 24 or C-24) and the Special and Political Committee on Decolonization (Fourth Committee). There are a number of other UN forums and committees that would be helpful to us including the Economic and Social Committee for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Indigenous Peoples Forum, and the Pacific Small Islands Developing States (PSIDS) among others. Many of the members of these other arms of the UN are also members of the C-24 and the Fourth Committee and building relationships and sharing information on these levels could undoubtedly lend itself to our efforts with the C-24 and the Fourth Committee. Coincidentally, we are an associate member of ESCAP, but we simply do not have the resources to participate.

The UNPO presents a unique opportunity for Guam to increase the intensity, frequency, and consistency of our engagement with the United Nations. In my humble opinion, working with the UN is a marathon, not a sprint. Though we are always very strategic, well-informed, and articulate whenever we come to the UN, we still only represent twice a year. I also think it is important to note that the United States often opposes our assertions *after* we leave New York. This is a troubling reality because when we do not speak for ourselves, the federal government speaks for us - and misrepresentation can be just as damaging as no representation.

Additionally, our government has decided to pursue an appeal of the Davis case at the Supreme Court. Though we cannot predict how this will play out, we must be prepared for any outcome. If the SCOTUS rejects our petition to appeal or if they accept our petition and we lose the case, it will signify the exhaustion of all available domestic remedies, which means that we will have an opportunity to bring our case to the International Court of Justice. This is a very complex undertaking and the international community plays an integral role in our success on that level. The UNPO could possibly help strengthen our case should we end up taking that route. The other way to get our case to the International Court of Justice is by gaining the support of 2/3 of the General Assembly at the United Nations – which is no small task and would require a global lobbying campaign. There are 193 voting members in the General Assembly.

I write this testimony in support of the resolution to seek membership with the UNPO. My only concern is the funding to cover the application fee and our annual membership dues. I will recommend to the Speaker that this resolution be followed up with a clear funding mechanism, mindful that the Commission on Decolonization has limited resources that are committed to carrying out our educational efforts here at home. I am happy to see that we continue to diversify our strategic approach to this historical struggle and I am hopeful that allies like the UNPO will continue to support us in our pursuit of justice and the recognition of the colonized people of Guam.

OFFICE OF SPEAKER TINA MUÑA BARNES
163 CHALAN SANTO PAPA
HAGĀTÑA, GUAM 96910

Håfa adai honorable members of i Liheslaturan Guåhan,

12 December 2019

Guahu si Leilani Rania Ganser. I am from the Jeje and Romeo clans and my family is the Cruz-Martinezes. Our roots are in Hagåtña and Barrigada and we have a deep love for our island. It is out of that love that I write to you today to advocate for Resolution 255-36 (LS) which supports Guåhan becoming a member of the UNPO or Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization.

Since its inception in 1991, the UNPO has worked diligently to advocate on behalf of the political autonomy of its member states while educating the public on the right to self-determination and fighting the human rights abuses perpetrated against unrepresented and marginalized persons.¹³ The organization exists largely to support those states without diplomatic representation in strengthening their ability to protect the human rights of their people and in addressing conflict.¹⁴

The primary goal of the UNPO is support for the self-determination efforts of its member states—a right which the CHamoru people have been deprived of since we discovered Magellan in the early 1500s and catalyzed Spain’s claim to our land, waters, resources, and people. In the words of the last queen of our Pasifika mañe’lu in the occupied Hawaiian Kingdom, “No darker cloud can hang over a people than the prospect of being blotted out from the list of nations.”¹⁵ We the people of Guåhan have understood this grief since 1565.

Our island’s political status has resulted in devastating land grabs, especially in the wake of the Manenggon concentration camp—a tragedy my family holds personally.¹⁶ Our political status is one of the reasons why my family and other survivors of the atrocities of the Japanese occupation of Guåhan are still waiting for war reparations 75 years since what we refer to as the “liberation” of Guåhan.¹⁷ Culturally, we have lost so many forms of art, tradition, language, and story passed down between generations as the total genocide of our identity continues.¹⁸ Young CHamorus like myself are yearning for freedom to engage with our country Guåhan the way our ancestors did and we are scared that we may never have the opportunity to experience and serve a free Guåhan.

I write this testimony from the Pacific Pavilion at the United Nations Climate Conference, COP 25, as I imagine our engagement in these spaces as an independent nation. I see on this pavilion the successes our mañe’lu throughout the tasi have experienced with the help of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization—from Bougainville to Belau. On this pavilion, we are deeply dedicated to the preservation of our home islands in the face of climate change and complete environmental and cultural destruction through the environmental crisis. This type of protection, protection particularly necessary for frontline communities like Guåhan, is what proponents of Resolution 255-36 (LS) are fighting for.

I’m currently a settler on Piscataway/Nacotchtank land, also known as Washington D.C. I am in the process these days of re-indigenizing. After the Second World War II and the liberation of

the concentration camps created during the Japanese occupation of the island, my grandmother left the rest of our family to come to the continental US. For my small immediate family, there was a sense of fear in being able to be openly CHamoru and openly Pasifika so my work is largely rebuilding the connections to my family still on island and securing a healthy and demilitarized Pacific so that myself, my sister, and my mother can return to our aunts and cousins whom we left behind. As the first daughter of my family, I take seriously my traditional role in stewarding my family and the cultural practices we carry. My role now is one of protecting the responsibilities and obligations myself, my clan, and my family have to our heritage.

This is why I support Guåhan's membership in the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization—because I believe in us. In the late 1600s, we saw nearly the entirety of our ancestors wiped out by disease, discrimination, and war in the Spanish empire. In the 1940s we experienced the atrocities of genocide and torture at the hands of the Imperial Japanese army. Today our island is sinking and yet without representation can do little to stop the tide. We are experiencing the damage of war and militarism with no end in sight. We are surrounded by outbreaks of disease and desecration. And yet we continue to fight.

As our ancestor, Maga'låhi Hurao said, before being shot in the back during peace negotiations, "We are stronger than we think! We must regain our former freedom!"⁹ The UNPO is one of the most promising ways for us to honor the wishes of Maga'låhi Hurao, our ancestors, and our future generations. In the face of all these crises, we have our people, our culture, and the aid of other states and I believe in Guåhan's ability to leverage these resources and privileges with honor and foresight.

Si yu'us mã'ase for taking the time to read and listen to my words and the words of others providing testimony today and throughout this process. I sincerely hope your decision on this resolution honors those of our relatives who have spent the last 500 years paving the way for us to take our rightful place as a state with global diplomatic, cultural, and environmental salience.

Inafa'maolek.

Kon Respetu,

Leilani Rania Ganser,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leilani R. Ganser". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent 'L' at the beginning.

Grants and Impact Associate, Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting
Political Science, Reed College 2019
Alumna: Institute for Policy Studies, SustainUS



Speaker's Office <speaker@guamlegislature.org>

Fwd: Naga-Guam- UNPO

2 messages

Strauss, Paul (SEN) <Paul.Strauss@dc.gov>
To: Speaker's Office <speaker@guamlegislature.org>

Thu, Dec 12, 2019 at 11:40 AM

Angely Sema will join me to testify. She works in our Statehood office.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Sema, Angely (SEN)" <angely.sema@dc.gov>
Date: December 11, 2019 at 7:33:58 PM EST
To: "Strauss, Paul (SEN)" <Paul.Strauss@dc.gov>
Subject: Naga-Guam- UNPO

Madam Speaker, and respected member of the legislature, I understand that the U.S. territory Guam is seeking admission to the UNPO. Resolution 255-35 (LS) urges both the Speaker of the Legislature and the Chairwoman of the Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs to take measures needed to solidify Guam's status as a member in the UNPO.

I would like to share a brief background about us the Nagas, the present member of the UNPO and how the UNPO came to our rescue.

-

I am a Naga (indigenous people) from Nagalim, bordered between, China, Burma and Tibet. The Naga are originally from Mongolia, having migrated to the region of Nagalim in the 10th century before Christ (BC). The term Nagalim refers to the entire Naga ancestral domain which was partitioned by the British between India and Burma, now Myanmar.

Gaum and the Nagas share certain similarities-

- Both of us were discovered and colonized. Since the Spanish discovery of Guam in 1521, Naga's first encounter with the British took place in 1832. The Nagas resisted the British for almost 50 years. And some of the naga territory came under the British rule and other areas were referred to by the British as the "Free Nagas." The Nagas were colonized by the British, and then by India, who inherited the territory from the British colonial power.

- During the WWII- Just like Gaum, we were also captured by the **Japanese** and faced forced labor, rape and torture. The whole villages of my mother were burned down and bomb by the allies to fend off the Japanese. The only house that remained was my great-grandmother's, which eventually became a base for the allied forces. The Japanese plan to invade India, codenamed U-Go, was originally intended as a spoiling attack, to disrupt the Allied offensive plans for that year. The Battle of Kohima- also referred to as the "Stalingrad of the East" was the turning point of the Japanese U Go offensive into India in 1944 during the Second World War. In 2013, the British National Army Museum voted the Battle of Imphal and Kohima to be "Britain's Greatest Battle."

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territories”

- *As of now – we are in the final stage of ‘Paper work’ thanks to the Prime Minister Modi*

The American liberated and educated us. And in due process we began to develop more of a “Naga Identity.”

The DC Statehood Delegation has become important allies of all of us who seek to advance the rights of Unrepresented Nations and Peoples around the world, in our current struggles today.

Senator Paul Strauss, the leading member of the DC Statehood Delegation, has forged alliances with other unrepresented peoples like us the Nagas- fighting for its indigenous rights to self-determination, Haratin of Mauritania- fighting against modern slavery and many more. In his official capacity Senator Strauss has personally traveled to Nagaland, becoming the only US elected official to ever do so in recent times. Thank you Senator Strauss for that!

In conclusion, the Nagas look forward to the day when we can proudly say- “We are no longer a member of the UNPO.” Hopefully by February 2020! Until then, the Nagas fully support your full representation in Congress, and look forward to your membership into our family- UNPO. Thank you!

2 attachments



Nagas-UNPO.docx
20K



ATT00001.htm
1K

Speaker's Office <speaker@guamlegislature.org>
To: "Strauss, Paul (SEN)" <Paul.Strauss@dc.gov>

Thu, Dec 12, 2019 at 12:09 PM

Håfa adai Senator Strauss,

We received Ms. Angely Sema written testimony. Thank you.

Do you have a written testimony that we are able to print out and share with those attending?

| *Sinseru yan Minagåhet,*

**Office of the Speaker • Tina Rose Muña Barnes**

Committee on Public Accountability, Human Resources & the Guam Buildup

35th Guam Legislature

I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Guam Congress Building | 163 Chalan Santo Papa | Hagatna, GU 96910

T: (671) 477-2520/1

speaker@guamlegislature.org

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Gumai pribilehu yan konfedensia este siha na mensâhi. Solo espesiâtmente para hâgu ma entsensioña pat ma aturisa para unrisibi. Sen prubidu kumu ti un ma aturisa para manribisa, na'setbe, pat mandespâtcha. Yanggen lachi rinisibu-mu nu este na mensâhi , put fabot ago' guatu gi I numa'huyong gi as speaker@guamlegislature.org yan despues destrosa todû siha I kopian mensâhi. Si Yu'os ma'âse'.

[Quoted text hidden]

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In conclusion, the Nagas look forward to the day when we can proudly say- **"We are no longer a member of the UNPO."** Hopefully by February 2020! Until then, the Nagas fully support your full representation in Congress, and look forward to your membership into our family- UNPO. Thank you!



INPO Resolution 255-35

message

Erriu Mitchell <emitchellerriu@gmail.com>
To: speaker@guamlegislature.org

Thu, Dec 12, 2019 at 10:42 AM

Hafa Adai Madame Speaker Tina Muna Barnes,

I write in support of UNPO Resolution 255-35. As a Palauan citizen and supporter of Guam's right to self-determination, I was happy to hear Guam taking the initiative to engage with the international community by joining UNPO, an organization that was an important resource in Palau's own self-determination and decolonization process. As a founding member in 1991 Palau would come to achieve independence with the support of the UNPO. Now independent, Palau sits as a supporting member of the UNPO along with the nations of Latvia, Estonia, and Armenia. The process for self-determination is a long and arduous one, Resolution 255-35 represents Guam's commitment to this process. Upon passage, Resolution 255-35 will allow for new collaboration and coordination opportunities with peoples of similar plights and reaffirms Guam's undying right of self-determination to the administering power.

Sincerely,

/s/ Erriu Mitchell



Written testimony re: Resolution No. 255-35 (LS)

message

Elizabeth Bowman <kelleybowman@gmail.com>

Wed, Dec 11, 2019 at 11:33 A

: "speaker@guamlegislature.org" <speaker@guamlegislature.org>

I am submitting testimony in favor of Resolution No. 255-35 (LS), RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING GUAM'S APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE UNREPRESENTED NATIONS AND PEOPLES ORGANIZATION (UNPO).

During my time in Guam, from 2012 to 2019, I was privileged and honored to be able to support some of the indigenous CHamoru rights groups, as well as the governor's commission on decolonization, and eventually to work for the office of the governor of Guam.

From this experience, I have developed a strong conviction that the rights of the indigenous people of the Marianas are a serious concern. Their disenfranchisement and the accompanying undeniable racism that permeates the socio-political system in the islands, including Guam, is severe and debilitating.

The colonial past is still with us today on Guam. The United States is still Guam's colonizer. In essence, the people of Guam are second class citizens because Guam has been regarded through the racist lens of Victorian laws and this has never changed.

The courts and Congress of the United States are clearly unprepared and unwilling to address this issue because they do not regard Guam as important other than for its military value. I was personally shocked and humiliated to find that residents of Guam are disenfranchised from the national vote.

During my time at the University of Guam, I was privileged to work with the Chamorro Studies Program and particularly its director, Dr. Michael Bevacqua. Together, we wrote academic articles that deal with the condition of Guam as a colonized indigenous entity. Our work was grounded in Dr. Bevacqua's understanding and identity as an indigenous CHamoru man living on his ancestral lands, as well as our combined research and analysis.

I witnessed as he traveled to the United Nations and to the United Nations regional conferences, as a representative of the government of Guam. It appears that the United Nations has insufficient intent or jurisdiction to address the decolonization of Guam.

Therefore, I most strongly recommend the Legislature adopt this resolution to support Guam's application for membership to the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization.

The disenfranchisement and continuing colonization of the indigenous peoples of Guam is a shocking tragedy. I am grateful to all those who continue to work toward justice and freedom for the oppressed and marginalized around the world. Our struggles are mutual; our solidarity must be mutual also.

During my time at the University of Guam, I witnessed the depredations of unchecked colonial power and racism. This includes the vile crimes of Michael Ehlert, the indictment of Douglas Farrer for attempted murder, and the firing of Patrick K. Harmon for sexual harassment, as well as many other shocking instances of harassment and a hostile working environment which saw multiple of my colleagues flee before I finally did. I also experienced an administration that was more interested in protecting its own reputation than in addressing crime on campus. Sexual harassment is a federal crime, and its effects are violently debilitating — I know from personal experience, as my trauma corroded every aspect of my life and I am still trying to heal. Once again, I beg this legislative body to conduct oversight of the university in this regard and place myself at your disposal for witness testimony. Once again, I call on the Guam Legislature to address the appalling violation of Guam Public Law in hiring a president who had no experience with Guam or the Marianas.

We live in a world in which evil and cruelty too often triumph. I am humbly grateful for the few who have the courage to speak out and stand up.

Sincerely yours,
Elizabeth Bowman

Resolution No. 255-35 (LS) – Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Joe S. San Agustin, Kelly Marsh (Taitano), PhD., Amanda L. Shelton, and Jose "Pedro" Terlaje
RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING GUAM'S APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE UNREPRESENTED NATIONS AND PEOPLES ORGANIZATION (UNPO).

Written testimonies may be delivered to the Office of Speaker Tina Muña Barnes at [163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam](#) 96910 or via email to speaker@guamlegislature.org. Copies of testimonies submitted forty-eight(48) hours prior to the hearing will be available to the public at the hearing.

Speaker Tina Rose Muna-Barnes
163 Chalan Santo Papa Juan Dos, Hagåtña, Guam
December 10, 2019

SUBJECT: UNPO Testimony

Good afternoon Madam Speaker and Chairman Kelly Marsh. My name is Gwen Yanger and I am an intern in the Public Policy Institute.

I send this testimony to you in support of Resolution 255-35 relative to supporting Guam's application to the Unrepresented Nations and People's Organization (UNPO).

After World War II, The United Nations granted the United States authority over islands that fell victim to the Japanese occupation in a contract known as the Trusteeship of Formerly Mandated Islands. Guam was one of the many islands mentioned in this agreement. The United States has since acted on many of the activities authorized to them in article six (6) of this agreement, such as establishing military bases and offering assistance to the community. However, article six (6) also mentions that the United States is to, "promote the development of the inhabitants of the trust territory towards self-government or independence." It has been seventy-three (73) years since this document was enacted. In these seventy-three (73) years, Guam has attempted to vote for their self-determination numerous times, but all of our calls for change have gone unanswered.

If Guam were to join the UNPO, we would no longer have to plead with others to be our allies. The UNPO is an organization of people that are familiar with the feeling of being unrepresented and gladly welcome us into their community. By joining, we have a better chance of raising awareness of Guam's situation as well as educating the global community of the trials we have endured for the past seventy-three years. It is because of these issues that I choose to partake in the call for self-determination.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase Pot Todu,
Gwendolyn Yanger

Good afternoon 35th Guam Legislature and honorable Speaker Tina Mina Barnes. Thank you for allowing me to testify and supporting this bill. I am Analina Koh, an intern at the Public Policy Institute-which has granted me access to multiple perspectives of this resolution.

I'm here to provide testimony in support of Resolution-255: Relative to supporting Guam's application for membership to the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO), and will focus on why Guam should join the UNPO.

In exchange for an annual fee of slightly over 3000 dollars, we obtain the service of professionals who specialize in seeking an international voice for the minority. This is exactly what we need. We are tired of being viewed as inferior, powerless, and uninfluential in congress and in the United Nations. We are tired of having our pleas shot down and concerns unheard. We need a voice, and the aid of the UNPO serves to do exactly that. Think about it-for the number of hours these specialists invest in strategizing with our representatives, it is more than worth it to invest in the nominal fee.

Our status as a territory was never meant to be permanent, nor the Organic Act of 1950. We've tried to speak up and did our best to change our status in the past, but to no avail. While we're physically advanced and constantly progressing as a society, we are politically behind much of the other islands. We need this voice to prevent exploitation of our island. We need change, and the UNPO aids in our vision.

Being apart of the UNPO gives our representatives access to much needed experience in the political realm of international policy. Should they deem this aid unhelpful, we are always able to end our membership. Furthermore, the fact that over forty other countries are current members of the UNPO shows that there is a benefit associated with this membership. Why else would they pay the annual fee to be in the organization? I believe we should look to these examples, especially highly developed countries like Taiwan, to make our decision.

With these contentions, I firmly believe we should seek membership with the UNPO. Thank you for this opportunity to speak up on my stance on this resolution.

[REDACTED]

Good afternoon 35th Guam Legislature and honorable speaker Tina Muna Barnes. Thank you for allowing me to testify and supporting this resolution.

I am here to provide testimony in support of Resolution-255.

I am testifying to get more support on this bill and focus on what the UNPO is and other successful examples of countries that are now independent thanks to the UNPO.

UNPO, the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization, is an organization that helps unrepresented ethnic groups or nations gain their recognition and self-determination.

There are a lot of significant ethnic groups and regions that has joined this organization such as Catalonia, the Iranian part of Kurdistan, West Papua, Tibet, East Turkestan, Inner Mongolia and Taiwan. There are also regions or peoples that had previously joined the organization such as the Iraqi part of Kurdistan, Latvia, Estonia, Ingria, Komi, Sakha and Bougainville.

By joining the UNPO, it would draw the attention of other nations worldwide, and there are many successful examples of gaining independence or having a big step in self determination. For example, former Soviet Republics of the USSR, Latvia, Estonia, Georgia and Armenia, gained independence after the USSR collapsed. The small island group Bougainville, is planned to hold a referendum to gain either independence from Papua New Guinea or greater autonomy.

Seungho Kang,
Public Policy Institute Intern



Independent Guåhan Committees

Organizational Development
Elyssa Santos

Finance
Jonathan Guerrero
Jesse Chargualaf

Educational Development & Research
Victoria-Lola Leon Guerrero
Francine Naputi

ArtReach
Kie Susuico
Monaeka Flores
Joseph Certeza

Media
Michael Lujan Bevacqua
Lawrence Lizama

Independent Guåhan supports Resolution 255-35 (LS) Relative to Supporting Guam's Application for Membership to the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization. This can be an important step in terms of Guåhan gaining greater visibility in national and international forums.

Independent Guåhan has been conducting educational outreach in the community for several years now, seeking to elevate the island's conversation around political status change and in particular the possibilities should Guåhan become independent. Our group holds regular monthly activities, such as educational assemblies, Teach-Ins and podcasts. In 2017, we expanded our work to include international solidarity efforts. That year Independent Guåhan helped organize a historical delegation to the United Nations to testify before the Fourth Committee on the situation on the island. In addition to offering testimony, Independent Guåhan also organized meetings with representatives from different countries and non-governmental organizations.

Through the tireless work of our volunteers, Independent Guåhan has kept up this solidarity work in the years since, continuing to organize delegations to testify before the United Nations, and also build networks with movements in Hawai'i, Okinawa and elsewhere. What our organization often finds in this type of work, is that our colonial status often obfuscates the needs of Guåhan's people and the reality of our status today. Around the world and the United States, people do not know about Guåhan, and if they do, our status as an American territory and strategic asset dominate. Our voices are drowned out. Our needs are made invisible.

We must tell the story of Guåhan and the issues we face. To do this we need allies and must work with existing networks, to connect our struggles to those in similar situations. The UNPO is a large network that represents hundreds of millions of people considered voiceless, including others within the US such as Washington D.C. Joining their ranks will not solve anything overnight, but it can represent an important step in getting our story, the story of Guåhan's continuing colonization and desire for decolonization to the world's ears.

In the words of feminist Sara Ahmed, "Solidarity does not assume that our struggles are the same struggles, or that our pain is the same pain, or that our hope is for the same future. Solidarity involves commitment, and work, as well as the recognition that even if we do not have the same feelings, or the same lives, or the same bodies, *we do live on common ground.*"

Nå'la'la'!
Independent Guåhan

MISSION STATEMENT: Independent Guåhan empowers the Chamoru people to reclaim our sovereignty as a nation. Inspired by the strength of our ancestors and with love for future generations, we educate and unify all who call our island home to build a sustainable and prosperous independent future.

Fanachu, Hita La'mon!

Testimony on Public Hearing of Resolution 255-35
December 12, 2019

Si Yu'os ma'åse' for the opportunity to provide testimony on Legislative Resolution 255-35. Na'an-hu si Hope Alvarez Cristobal. Ginen Sinadot yo'. Guahu lumakngos ayu na lai para umadekolonisa (uma na'libre gi politikát na banda) I manCHamoru.

I applaud all of you Senators and this Legislature for your attempt to find other international fora to take our quest for the exercise of our right to CHamoru self-determination and decolonization and to seek resolution to this long-standing issue. This has been frustrating to say the least---the historical denial of a people's human, political and legal right to freely exercise what is internationally recognized by all member nations at the United Nations. So, we must ask ourselves, What are we trying to accomplish with this resolution? What is the value of this Resolution in seeking redress for historical injustices inflicted upon the CHamoru people of Guam?

It is a matter of fact, that the greatest nation on earth is a Signatory to the 1898 Treaty of Peace wherein, Spain and the U.S. agreed that the "U.S. Congress will determine the political status of the native inhabitants of Guam". It is also a fact that the U.S. is a Signatory to the United Nations Charter that promised all colonized people the right of self-determination and decolonization. One of the first actions of the Signatories of the UN Charter (Treaty of Nations) was to create the List of Non-self-governing Territories for all colonial peoples. Guam was freely and voluntarily placed on that United Nations List of Non-Self-Governing Territories (by the Department of the Navy) by the United States who became Guam's Administering Power at the UN. In 1950, it was the Administering Power of the native inhabitants of Guam, the United States of America, that passed the Organic Act of 1950 recognizing in part, the special status of the native inhabitants of Guam, the CHamoru people!

In the attempt to seek other avenues or other international fora to take our quest for political dignity, we must be very careful with our choice of words. We must be consistent with local law as well as international statements and we must be abundantly clear about WHO needs to be decolonized and WHO needs representation at the United Nations. What we say about WHO we are must be accurate and firm at all levels, on Guam, nationally and internationally.

Our message must be loud and abundantly clear, accurate and firm and must not contradict or misinform anyone in this world, that the CHamoru people are **not just another ethnic group** on Guam; that we are not just another group among other ethnic groups in our homeland as is stated in some websites owned by the U.S. The CHamoru People ARE THE people of the land, we are the **taotao tano'**; we are the native inhabitants of Guam who have endured a historical hurt. We do not claim **equality** with other ethnic groups in Guam; those who have arrived and made Guam their home through the structures of the U.S. Immigration of the Administering Power and those who have exercised their *self-determination* through their feet! Those persons, those groups have been allowed statutory self-determination while we, the **taotao tano'** languish, waiting to exercise our fundamental human, our legal and political right.

We must be careful not to be caught up in a refocusing or detraction from the work of the UN C-24, the UN Committee on Decolonization (the UN C-24). The UNPO as an International NGO with international memberships IS SEPARATE from the UN. It may exist to advocate for human rights, for groups that have been disenfranchised. However, we must not muddle our people's sacred right to attain political dignity—we must be clear that this Resolution is for the CHamoru people, the native inhabitants of Guam.

Any reference or statement about not having the ability to vote for President (of the U.S.) or of not having voice in Congress are issues, rather, sub-issues to be resolved after Guam's political status is determined, that is, if Statehood is the people's choice. To use these issues to justify seeking redress for the injustices by political denial of our right to self-determination is not consistent with the decolonization law. We must refrain from speaking from both sides of our mouth. These statements must be removed from this Resolution. Every year, we go to UN and our voices are heard there.

The purpose of this Resolution must be to support our position at the United Nations. We must stay the course and DO NOT GIVE UP. Hu hongge na ta na'siña sumatba I dinanche, I mas takhelo' na derecho-ta! Put fabot, na' fan fayi' hamyo yan na' famta este na hinasso na hita guini na tano' pumadedesi I inachakkan hustisia put pulitikat.

HOPE A. CRISOBAL

Cell: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Office of the Speaker
TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Committee on Public Accountability, Human Resources, and the Guam Buildup

AUTHOR REPORT DIGEST

I. OVERVIEW

Resolution No. 255-35 (LS) was introduced on November 14, 2019 by Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Senator Joe S. San Agustin, Senator Kelly Marsh (Taitano), PhD, Senator Amanda L. Shelton, and Senator Jose “Pedro” Terlaje, and was subsequently referred by the Committee on Rules to Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, on November 14, 2019. Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, author convened an Author’s Public Hearing on Resolution No. 255-35 (LS) on December 12, 2019 at 4:00PM in *I Liheslatura*’s Public Hearing Room.

Public Notice Requirements

Public Hearing notices were disseminated via e-mail to all senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on Tuesday, December 3, 2019 (5-Day Notice), and again on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 (48-Hour Notice).

Senators Present

Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Author
Senator Kelly G. Marsh (Taitano), Ph.D.,
Senator Telo Taitague

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The public hearing was called to order at 4:06 pm.

Speaker Tina Muña Barnes: Bueñas yan Háfa Adai Everyone, Merry Christmas to present here today. This hearing by Author Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes on Resolution No. 255-35 (LS) is hereby called to order. The time right now is 4:06 in the afternoon for the record and in accordance to 5GCA, Chapter 8, Subsection 8107, Public Hearing Notices were sent out on Tuesday, December 3, 2019 adhering to the 5 Day Notice and again on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 adhering to the 48 Hour Notice. In addition this hearing was noticed on the Guam Legislature’s website, written testimonies may be submitted by emailing speaker@guamlegislature.org, or you may hand deliver it to our office at 163 Chalan Santo Papa Hagatna, Guam 96910. On the agenda ladies and gentlemen we have Resolution No. 255-35 (LS) which is Relative to supporting Guam’s Application for membership to the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO). This resolution was introduced by myself Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Senator Joe S. San Agustin, Senator Kelly Marsh (Taitano), PhD, Senator Amanda L. Shelton, and Senator Jose “Pedro” Terlaje. Joining me this afternoon is my Vice Chair Senator Marsh (Taitano) and Senator Telo Taitague, thank you ladies

for joining me this evening. The conduct for the public hearing is as followed please keep all testimony limited to five minutes and proper decorum shall be displayed throughout the public hearing. Before we begin I want to let everyone know that we have a few members of the UNPO going to testify via skype so for the interest of international time we will begin with our off island guests. Senator Paul Strauss can you hear us?

Senator Paul Strauss (VIA SKYPE): Thank you Madam Speaker, Hafa Adai to my fellow unrepresented Americans. I am Paul Strauss I am an elected United States Senator from the District of Columbia a position sometimes called the shadows. History of shadow senators is almost as old as our republic itself, in 1796 the citizens of what was then the Southwest birth date which now is the state of Tennessee on it very much behind the in as if equal state we faced opposition other state and they tried a variety of techniques one of them first name them suppose the Franklin in the hopes that Harriet's in favor with to think Senator Paul Senator Paul if I may if you could just speak a little bit slower so that we can capture the a message it's coming in a little bit garbled thank you okay is this any better yep all right? terrific as I was saying shadow senators date back to the early history of the United States when the residents of the Southwest territory which became ultimately Tennessee had trouble getting statehood they elected two US senators and for Lobby the Senate in advance statehood and eventually other territories who participate began to adopt sensible and so the states yet California Oregon were among the territories with you.

Shadow senators in their efforts to gain in the 20th century the territory of Elettra also elected a congressional delegation in advance of being granted basil and I think the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico was dad owed elevate your join your punch Jake now position down over Mike just an advocate people who live under the time but do not have a vote legislature Bob you see residents vote for me and holding bet on the photos put up there but now when we go to the Congress one of the things that was important in the first okay we're evolving equality is working with the international community and one of the best ways we found to do that is through our membership in the UNPO one of the first opportunities I had to learn about the UNPO good work was when I was on a state visit to the Republic of China and Taiwan the District of Columbia has a large community of Taiwan expats living here in the Washington DC area and we have strong ties to the Republic of China on Taiwan the next opportunity I had was when I had an opportunity to become one of the first US elected officials to visit Nagaland one of India's 16 states and there again I saw the UNPO was involved in working to bring a peaceful resolution to their struggle for self-determination and finally I had a chance to meet an individual named Iran be the leader of the hara team and the people who were very much kept literally in slavery and after running across this international organization on three separate occasions helping people in very different parts of the world facing very different struggles for self-determination and equality. I began to look more into it and I understood that.

The UNPO is an advocate for people who are unrepresented in international bodies and in some cases in their own governments and it struck me that Washington DC the capital of the United States a place that long symbolizes freedom and equality for many was actually a perfect candidate for? Membership in the UNPO because us government despite our efforts to carry he causes of equality and freedom around the world denies it to its own citizens of his capital city since joining the UNPO we have had a chance to work with underrepresented communities around the world not all of the members of the UNPO share the same goal we in the District of Columbia have had referendums and we've made a decision but for us our solution is stated joining the union is the 51st state there are others for whom independence or differential degrees of self-determination within their own countries may be the best solution joining the UNPO.

Doesn't commit one member to endorse the goals of any other particular number nor does it obligate a member to a particular course of action but it does provide a level of expertise resources and association with folks who are often facing the same issues that very diverse communities face but we all want the same thing we all want self-determination for our people we all want to live in peace harmony and we want to be treated fairly and respected by our own governments whatever form they may take UNPO is a nonviolent Democratic organization to the spouses the values of democracy around the world and at a time when we're seeing more and more authoritarian states working together to have democratic movements from around the world coming together to share ideas to build relationships it's important and so, I'm pleased that LOM is considering membership in this international organization we have found it helpful we have found it valuable and we have found that it adds to our credibility when we had our referendum on our status and ultimately voted in favor of statehood we were happy to have you NPO observers monitoring our election to make sure that it was safe and conformed to the appropriate levels of participation and democratic goals for all the participation I congratulate the legislature on examining this option I believe that is different as Washington DC in Guam maybe in terms of geography and culture there is more that unites us than divides us and more importantly the American people.

Will only benefit from a relationship and a republic where all Americans are adequately represented the truth is the United States needs the input and values of the people of ROM as we struggle to form our more perfect union it's not my place to tell the citizens of ROM what the ultimate resolution on their status should be but whatever decision the people may ultimately make I'm confident you'll find as we in Washington DC now that the UNPO is a valuable international organization to help facilitate the very complex and difficult decisions you may have ahead we thank you for the opportunity to testify here today it's exciting to greet you from the home of our legislature here in Washington DC and speak to the legislature of Guam and to the extent that anybody has any questions I'm happy to answer them as best I can see.



Speaker Muña Barnes: Thank you Senator Strauss, at this time I will open the floor to my colleagues Assistant Majority Leader Senator Marsh (Taitano). Do you have any questions or comment for Senator Strauss?

Senator Marsh (Taitano): Thank you, Madam Speaker. So, I just have a comment I appreciate very much getting to hear from Washington, D.C. It's important for the people of Guam, it's important for the people of the U.S and the world really to hear that there are other portions in the U.S that are likewise going through some of these important issues. It is very important to hear from fellow territories or fellow districts that are also fighting for some of their rights of consideration in one manner or another. So, I thank him very much for his perspective it has indeed been valuable and very useful to be a part of the UNPO.

Speaker Muña Barnes: Thank you Senator Marsh. Senator Taitague any questions or comments?

Senator Telo Taitague: Thank you Madam Chair and I want to say Good Morning to you Senator. I think its 1:27AM in D.C right now and you look very refreshed, I thank you for bringing your insight to this as we consider being a member of the UNPO some of the questions that I have sir is, you know how long. First, you have been a member of UNPO since 2015 correct and what is the progress as far as any movement have you seen since being a part of UNPO? Have you experience their membership?

Senator Paul Strauss (VIA SKYPE) : Well one of the important aspects that we've got the ability to work with that it is not in particular residence much focused and frequently they will fall out, countries will raise the attention of informed like that action we have worked with particular groups where they take advantage of appearing diverse group which will take place this year.

Senator Telo Taitague: It seems we are coming in broken up, maybe the connection is bad. I will try to get your number so I can call back at a decent time but anyways my next question is how you determine whether Washington, D.C wants to go ahead and become a state or wants to be status quo. For instance, how do you determine what subject matter in the direction D.C goes into UNPO? Do you lobby for who makes the decision, you're going to because Guam is in a situation where some in statehood, some in independence, and some wants status quo? So, by joining the UNPO how do you know what direction Washington wants to go about doing something like determine what type of lobbying they want the UNPO to do for them.

Senator Paul Strauss (VIA SKYPE): There are other people in the UNPO that have alternatives there and I think patient is well equipped to provide guidance in making sure what decision the people of promoting will international recognition and I would see okay.

Senator Telo Taitague: It is very difficult to understand you and your comments are very important. Hopefully we can get it in writing and I greatly appreciate it. My last question is how much do you pay a year in dues to UNPO? And if there are dues how does Washington, D.C pay for that?

Senator Paul Strauss (VIA SKYPE) : Its approximately 3,000 euros, around 6,000 dollars in U.S dollars. Well with the exchange rates better it is around \$3,500 dollars.

Senator Telo Taitague: Well thank you very much, I am pretty sure you will get a good night's sleep tonight as soon as your head hits the pillow. Thank you very much again.

Speaker Muña Barnes: Thank you very much Senator and from our island to Washington, D.C have a Merry Christmas and blessed holidays. At this time ladies and gentlemen, we will now hear from Angely Sema from Naga in India. We will go ahead and get her connected, Miss Angel can you hear me? Please speak into the mic and state your name for the record, please state if you are in support of the resolution or not in support.

Angely Sema: Please see attached written testimony.

Speaker Muña Barnes: Thank you very much for your testimony and our colleagues do have a written presentation in front of them right now. At this time, I will go ahead and open it up to my colleagues. Senator Marsh you may proceed.

Senator Marsh (Taitano): Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is important to hear from various members and on one hand we heard from a member that is a part of UNPO, so we know about membership within the United States and its territories. This can be effective to hear from members of several years and that they are finding it very useful, all of those things are good to hear from other people's seeking self-determination as

well as other similarities with D.C but we have some similarities with Miss Sema. Thank you very much for sharing your perspective and making the many fine points that you shared in regard to historical context and the discovery along with colonization the suffering that both of the communities have during WWII. Then your very strong statement about international pressure working, these are such strong statements for our community to hear and that you have been developing allies through this association. Some of whom have even traveled there, and we can see that fellow members are making these just extraordinary reaches to help support others. Thank you very much for your wonderful insight because it will certainly help us understand better our potential within the U.S but also potential for indigenous people seeking self-determination and different statuses.

Speaker Muña Barnes: Senator Taitague

Senator Telo Taitague: Thank you for staying up so early in the morning over there. Thank you for educating us about your wonderful country. Merry Christmas and thank you once again.

Speaker Muña Barnes: Thank you, Senator Telo and more importantly thank you Senator Strauss and Miss Sema for your testimonies of support. Now at this time we will go ahead with Mr. Bunche, I understand that he is in Switzerland and if I can have our IT guys please help with the connection. Hello Mr. Bunche, thank you for being here today.

Mr. Ralph Bunche: Good Evening, I was going to go ahead and give a brief overview of what the UNPO is about but I won't seeing as Senator Strauss did an excellent job in doing so. UNPO is a membership-based organization, a little part about our history is that we were founded in 1991. With the intentions of being a forum for international governments and internationally conform and speak the concept that means not being adequately represented. This is different depending on the member but ultimately it boils down to people living in national constitutional lawyers but you are given adequate voice to their people's national system. Some of those issues are being raised internationally with much focus on the issue and I would say what's very interesting about having the District of Columbia with us is our relationship with the United States. It is quite a symbolic care that is disenfranchised its people from strength. UNPO is an organization international discussion for those people whose plan of action and strategy is to think how they can raise their voices.

~~We need to empower those people to raise their voices but to also think how the National campaigns could be formed. They could be seeking on the basis of networks~~

of advice together in terms of climate change and to fight climate change. We are looking into different ways in the training our members. Those members make recommendations to the General Assembly, UNPO helps with data research and providing statistics. What Senator Strauss said is incredibly important in regard to membership in the organization, there is not any member as it relates to commonalities amongst the members and realize how showing solidarity in certain circumstances can be incredibly powerful.

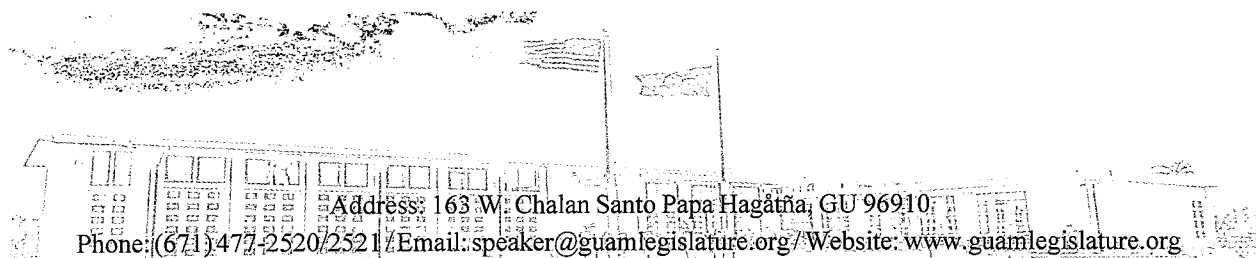
Speaker Muna Barnes: Thank you, Mr. Bunche. At this time I will open up the floor to my colleagues.

Senator Telo Taitague: Good Morning over there in Switzerland, thank you for taking the time. I was actually listening online because it sounds a little more clearer because right now you are coming off muffled. But that's okay because we can just review the tape, I actually have a couple of questions for you and I appreciate you taking time out of your schedule to speak with us. As you mentioned earlier, the organization is taking projects on and it's not like you are always agreeing to bringing in new members. This of course gives you more time to spend on your current members right now with all of your lobbying efforts, etc. That's good how you mentioned one thing that you do is talk to the applicant, who are you going to speak to in terms of Guam? Would you speak to the head of state which is the Governor of Guam to determine whether we are able to be a member of your organization? How many members have you had in recent years? Lastly, if Guam were to become a member what would our dues be? We heard from DC what they pay for membership but if Guam was to be a member how much would it be?

Mr. Ralph Bunche: It would be around \$3,000 a year in U.S Dollars, so it would be the same was Washington, D.C.

Senator Telo Taitague: If we were to become a member is there a one-year contract or longer than one year or do we renew every year? Does it bind us for two or three years?

Mr. Ralph Bunche: It would be on a yearly basis.



Senator Telo Taitague: I could not quite hear that but hopefully I can hear it on YouTube. I appreciate you for answering my questions, thank you and happy holidays.

Speaker Muna Barnes: Senator Marsh any updates?

Senator Marsh (Taitano): Thank you very much for providing us information and I too will be going back over the YouTube so that I can make sure I gather different points that you are making and really be able to think them through. I apologize if you said this before but can you outline how the relationship would occur if we send an application and if we are through a screen how would the process be accepted what are some of those initial parts of our relationship? What would our membership entail would it involve participating in some forums throughout the year? Would there be ways of expressing our needs, if you could explain or just outline some of that for us?

Mr. Ralph Bunche: Membership and level of participation is much at discretion of the member. Some members are happy to take full opportunity of all participation activities. Along with national and international campaign, what you want and what you put into it. We have a General Assembly where all the members gather, which happens every 18 months. We have events throughout the year regarding self-determination, and policy advocacy.

Senator Marsh (Taitano): Thank you very much for providing that outline. It is very good to hear that it is up to the members' discretion because perhaps some members are able to participate more than others. It is great having the flexibility and certainty, we can see some examples such as Senator Strauss where we actually went out to visit another area. We can see some examples of what you described and some of which we heard elsewhere. Where members are providing that support for each other in international advocacy to rights of self-determination. UNPO has tools that can help us provide a better understanding of our situation and help us refine our course and perhaps in the dialogue with others. Thank you very much for your time and presentation.

Speaker Muña Barnes: Thank you very much Secretary General, we truly appreciate your presentation here this afternoon. Blessed holidays and at this time ladies and gentlemen we do have a list of folks that are here to testify. I will call them out but before I do that I would like to recognize the presence of one of our former colleagues Senator Hope Cristobal. At this time I would like to call up Melvin Won Pat-Borja, Amara San Nicolás, Jay Susisco, Dr. Michael Becaquva, Gwen Yanger, Sunny Kang, Analina Koh, and Senator Hope please join us. Mr. Darren Caldwell? Mr. Jonathon

Guerrero please if you can join us. In the interest of time I would like to yield to our former colleague Senator Hope Cristobal. Please speak into the microphone, state your name for the record and if you are in support or not in support of the resolution.

Former Senator Hope Cristobal: Please see attached written testimony.

Speaker Muna Barnes: Thank you, Senator Hope. Thank you for your presentation. At this time I will recognize the Executive Director for the Commission on Decolonization.

Mr. Melvin Won-Pat Borja: Please see attached written testimony.

Speaker Muna Barnes: Thank you, Mr. WonPat Borja. At this time, we have Analina Koh.

Analina Koh: Please see attached written testimony.

Speaker Muna Barnes: Thank you for your presentation. Dr. Becaquva you are recognized.

Dr. Michael Becaquva: Please see attached written testimony.

Speaker Muña Barnes: Thank you Dr. Becaquva, thank you very much. Ms. Gwendolyn Yanger please proceed.

Gwendolyn Yanger: Please see attached written testimony.

Speaker Muna Barnes: Thank you for your presentation, Ms. Yanger. Mr Kang please proceed.

Sunny Kang: Please see attached written testimony.

Speaker Muña Barnes: Thank you Mr. Kang. Mr Guerrero you may proceed.

Mr. Jonathon Guerrero: Please see attached written testimony.

Speaker Muna Barnes: Thank you, Mr Guerrero for your presentation. Before I open up questions for my colleagues. I will allow Senator Taitague to proceed seeing as she has a prior commitment.

Senator Telo Taitague: Thank you Madam Chair. Thank you for everyone being here today. Senator Cristobal, the three interns from your office, thank you for being here. I look forward to your comments being translated. I know some of what you said but I would really appreciate it if you could do a print-out. Who is going to be filling out the application? Will it be the Governor? Will it be Mr. Borja. I think it should stay the course, I understand a lot of things the concerns about the United Nations and that's a great concern for myself as well. Merry Christmas everyone and drive safely.

Speaker Muña Barnes: Thank you for everyone who presented oral testimonies. There are quite a few who submitted online and we will give it to our committee staff to include in the report. I want to thank everyone who stayed past 5:00PM, it is very important as we continue these efforts moving forward. We've been at this for over seven decades as noted in previous testimony and I think it is important in order for us to share with our community how we want to govern ourselves, we should never give up. Based on history that has been provided I want to say that it is presentations like this that it's really important so that our community can have a better understanding of how we want to proceed. Based on previous leaders have been able to promote and move forward. I pose a question to the Public Policy Institute and I ask for their honest opinion. Did the office of Speaker Muña Barnes force you to write a testimony in support of this resolution?

Analina Koh: Absolutely not, this was up to us whether or not it is a requirement to testify in a public hearing. It was our choice and our stance.

Speaker Muña Barnes: Miss Yanger?

Gwendolyn Yanger: Just like Analina had said we weren't forced to do anything, just beginning this internship we were told we could choose any project we wanted and for

the three of us we came to the conclusion that this was the most important to our island. At the moment we all feel very strongly about and we feel with the help of the 35th Guam Legislature we can really make a difference.

Speaker Muña Barnes: Mr. Kang?

Mr. Sunny Kang: There was no pressure, we had other options for other projects.

Speaker Muña Barnes: Thank you. At this time I will ask my vice chair for my committee but also one of the co-authors to go ahead and comment or ask questions to the panel members.

Senator Marsh (Taitano): Thank you, Madam Chair and thank you everyone for coming out today. From your statements and from my experience with some of you I know how deeply committed you are to these issues and how important it is and so we just thank you for continuing that effort continuing that drive because it's not an easy road as the executive director for the Commission on decolonization was saying it's a marathon and I know some of you have been at this for decades and you know I did also want to say it's so important to hear from the many perspectives and experiences that you represent from those such as Galu hope Chris Dovell, a former Senator but someone who's been at the forefront of the effort of Chamorro decolonization for decades from those in leadership in educational positions and then those of the next generation who are studying these issues and making their way through all of this as well to form your own opinions and to pave your own path as to how you are going to deal with these issues that we continue to find ourselves in a hundred and twenty years.

Even after we were taken over by the United States and three hundred years after this colonization has begun so for Galu hope I say and uncle Lunas Azouz Massey for setting the course straight at those times where it might get muddled and the words that you shared the insight that you shared we're so important for that in many ways I see you as serving as a navigator through those choppy waters that is our path towards decolonization and I know for the speaker and myself we will definitely be going through the resolution and picking up on those points because we want clarity we want consistency they're necessary and so just for the record some of the areas that are along the same lines as you're discussing is that this resolution it needs to be clear and it needs to be clear that what we're trying to do with this membership is to further our path on decolonization and on page three is where I think there are several areas where that can really be strengthened and clarified so in that statement of never having been give the given the ability to voice their opinion or make a decision I think perhaps if we added the statement regarding determining their political status then that makes it clear what

type of voice we're talking about what situation we're talking about and what this courses that were meant to be on and then later on I'd like to strengthen the language where it talks about not just the right to self-determine but, in the UNPO they have said and we see similar language elsewhere like in the indigenous rights of, excuse me, the rights of indigenous peoples is that it's an inalienable right so I think we should be strengthening it and what is often done in referring to native and indigenous peoples so that understanding that they are recognized as such is they capitalize it another area I see that needs clarification here is it has been CHamorus and others who serve as allies of Guam that have appealed to the United States but specifically that way has been led and paved by tomorrow's seeking that redress and there has been support of others along the way but I'm hoping that that some of the clarification that you're seeking and the last one there again on page three is to talk about the when the it's discussion of the role of the United States.

And as has been mentioned by others such as more recently year the former president of the Federated States of Micronesia, he had stated during the Independence Day celebration at out Ypao Beach where he really noted that the US had put obstacles in their path towards decolonization or self-determination for them and I think perhaps language such as that might be more descriptive of what we're trying to express here that there is that obstruction of native peoples or indigenous peoples who had that right to self-determine to indeed do so. So if you'd like to

Dr. Michael Becaquva: Thank you Senator, I think for me it's very important to note that the US has sequentially consistently supported the native inhabitants of Guam as a signatory to the Treaty of Peace and as a signatory to the United Nations Charter and in putting together the organic tack of 1950 so those documents point in a direction that there was this honorable path that they were paving for the future exercise of native inhabitants to exercise the right of self-determination and I like to point out that it is important for us to understand who the "self" is in self-determination that the self is the people of Guam who are the native inhabitants and their descendants pointed out in the 1950 Organic Act. We are those people who have, who, I guess, hold that historical hurt still with us so that needs to be redressed again and the reason why I call out the attention to defining who the "self" is.

It is because recently there has been media attention rather there was a forum that was conducted by a major commercial entity non-government organization on Guam that's promoting this that war has the right of self-determination when in fact warm is a piece of land it does not have any right in and of itself it's a piece of property. It is people that have this right this is a fundamental human right of a people it is legal right it's a political right but most importantly when you speak about indigenous rights we need to remember that we're talking about human rights at the United Nations what is recognized time and time again is the human right of a people collectively the people of Guam in addressing the injustice is the in historical hurt is the CHamoru people as a people. This is, to me, a qualitatively different kind of a right it belongs to a people it

does not belong to each individual person but rather collectively a people that have been denied historically their political right to determine, to self-determine what their political status will be. Si Yu'os Ma'ase Senator.

Senator Marsh (Taitano): Si Yu'os Ma'ase for those statements and in both your writing and your statements now it's important to understand that it is it's redressing a historical injustice so it's a very specific situation that is to be redressed and the words are very important that we're talking about dignity we are talking about I really appreciate your pointing out perhaps some people might look at the ideas or concepts of indigenous rights and not really fully know how to understand that but when we take it in the ways that you've framed it and help them understand that we're talking about their human rights as indigenous peoples within that collective identity I think that that can really help them understand what we're trying to get at and so I really appreciate the ways that you have of pointing that out and making sure that we stay the course and that we are consistent when we are trying to do this also oh I do we know is the executive director is he able to come back oh I see okay so but I know that you're part of the Commission on decolonization so perhaps I can ask you some of the questions that I had for him and if not I can, as the speaker was mentioning we can forward them to him and get the answers put into the committee record late. Should the resolution go forward and should we be accepted by the UNPO what do you see as priorities for what we are seeking there there's a lot of potential there and they do a lot of different types of work it sounds like they have a lot of different types of subcommittees and things like that but are there some priorities, especially since we haven't finished our educational campaign nor had our plebiscite perhaps you have some answers, Dr. Bevacqua?

Dr. Michael Becaquva: Sure, so there are different things that the organization already has campaigns for or is already pushing on and Guam could join some of those for example I believe earlier this year they were doing an awareness campaign about people that cannot vote within the United States and so they were trying to draw attention to Puerto Ricans people in Guam American Samoa and so on Washington DC and sort of drawing attention to that contradiction in hypocrisy and American democracy and so there's ways that for example there that Guam can fit into that but one of the things that I really like about it though is that it there's certain things that we face in Guam and we're not used to seeing it your average person is not used to seeing it in the way that they see something for example that's happening in the Amazon right that's sort of the ways in which the environment is being impacted there there's there's sort of a bubble of privilege of first world sort of privilege in which we see things happening on Guam but in truth if we sort of take away that privilege we will see that what people on Guam and in particular tomorrow's face is similar to what indigenous people around the world are facing and so there's many campaigns around sort of access to resources control over natural resources which the UNPO has pushed for

So there's ways that we would fit into that and I think I always find it very interesting when I'll be on Facebook and somebody from Guam will share something about oh my goodness look at what's happening in the Amazon or oh my goodness look at what's happening to these people there but in my mind I'll think why aren't you connecting that to what we're experiencing here because it's a similar situation and so one thing that I like about the UNPO is however we connect it can help sort of elevate our profile so that when people are thinking for example about the Amazon is burning down what are we going to do they can help to sort of include Guam in this discussion about resources and so on indigenous people that are being threatened by things such as militarization and so on we can be connected in that and more people will see Guam because when you think about it one of big issues that we faces most people in the United States and in the world don't know about WOM and they don't see WOM as an issue that has to be attended to or dealt with so you want to appear to be an issue that somebody needs to do something about I mean um I keep bringing up the Amazon because it was one of the things that they helped raise sort of the consciousness about in terms of getting the European Union to be more engaged in what's happening in the Amazon in recent years and that's one reason why there was the big summer or there was a lot of Amazon burning down recently and the EU responded quickly because it had been part of not just the UNPO.

Other groups that had pushed to raise the consciousness of the everyday of the average person but also the government in the EU on that and so it lays down sort of this network of solidarity so then when it's an issue people are like I know about that I've heard about that I want to donate money or I'm going to contact my government because the government should do something about that and Guam is almost not in any of those conversations because as one of the delegates who offered testimony who's in Spain right now for a Climate Change Conference noted even in the critical people in the room when tomorrow's from Guam were talking about Guam's needs other delegates would push back and say you're just America you know you shouldn't be here you're just America and so that's the problem that we face is that we our voice needs to be out there or else people will just write us off as we're America's day begins to do small C Peres and now and it's a points that you're making are very important for us to be thinking about and definitely I follow what you're saying that somehow we do have this disconnect we see about the burning of the Amazon and we feel a certain way about it but then when we hear about loss of environment here somehow it hits us differently.

This is one of the reasons why when I was teaching I always look to outside examples well often looked outside examples because I think in a lot of ways we get into these ruts of thinking that some of these thoughts have been thought the same way and talked about the same way for decades and generations and they can fall into that but then when you compare it to somewhere else and people see it in that different situation that it can hit them differently and they can maybe more critically think it through so I really see value in that and you had written an article on November 21st and I'd like to read just a couple of sentences from it because I think it really hits a powerful point of what we can gain and it says for our situation here that we are

marginalized so in starting with what you say part of this marginalization is that you are cut off from mechanisms of power you cannot vote for those who make the overarching laws your resources are controlled in ways that governments militaries or corporations have less oversight you exist in a system where for one reason or another you were not supposed to have a voice this group was formed UNPO to try to give a space of solidarity and a louder voice for those who are stuck in these marginalized States and I think for a lot of us if it's the only environment or situation we've known all our lives that we may not even recognize it in fact I remember from something that you had said years ago get hope is that it wasn't until you went to I believe it was San Diego.

Where you saw that parades had these different emphases and they had different actors and they didn't necessarily invite or have this the strength of a presence visible presence in the ways that they operate here on Guam that you saw that it could be different and that was the same for my father-in-law former Speaker Carlos Pangolin and I to know that when he went to Hawaii and when he was fighting in the war that he saw indigenous peoples being treated differently that they got college education and they were considered professionals and they could vote and they could do all these things that did not exist here but I think it was really that journey of being able to do that and so us being able to participate in an organization like this and participate with other peoples around the world who are experiencing different and similar situations can open up our eyes in many ways and help our entire community see things perhaps differently so just a couple other questions that I have just wanting to have clarification here so we are in the middle or beginning perhaps is a better way to frame it the education campaigns for the Commission on decolonization is there anything that you see in our participating should it happen our participating that would impede our efforts in any way or maybe on the other and perhaps something that might be beneficial from what you know I think um I think it would be more beneficial I can't think of anything that would necessarily impede it but um it one thing that would could help it be beneficial is one thing that we've seen even through the UN engagement over the past couple years is that by sort of not just speaking to the federal government directly but speaking to others countries other groups is that it makes them more receptive to listen

Because it's not just it's not just us in them but now at the UN you have other countries that are asking the U.S what is going on in Guam there were some people that were that we're talking about.

With Guam and they said that you know this and that and the US has to respond the US has to react to that and so it would definitely be something that would help in the long term where when it isn't just about a local education but it's about trying to engage the federal government then having a louder sort of a louder voice that resonates in different corners would definitely help sort of I would imagine it would help bring them to the table in terms of talking about this because it's easy to ignore Guam the federal government does it all the time but when sort of there's all when they're hearing about it from all these other ways it's harder to ignore and so I can definitely see some

end if you note as you were saying one of the one of the easiest ways that we can educate ourselves is to step outside of our context and then look back at it from somebody else's perspective and so that context can be so important because like if we think of so what does it mean to be indigenous many of us think of it in a cultural sense.

If you look around the world being indigenous by for many groups it means you are actually cut out of power that's kind of what happened and then seeing that being indigenous or supporting indigenous people isn't just about the culture right but it's also about an ethics a politics taking on these larger issues of justice and so I think I'm that that's one of the big things if we utilize this network well it will lead to us learning more about what's happening in because there is a country a territory that just voted for independence this week Bougainville and they used to be part of UNPO and so when you look there's all these things happening and this can help us get past the filter to learn more about those places so as we step forward we realize we're not alone in looking for a better deal that there's all these people.

Where around the world that have been cut out of power and they want a better deal they want respect and we're just like them very good and so I thank you for that information and that perspective and one of the most powerful things that I remember hearing just recently and I was so glad that it was able to be shared here by other peoples that are also working to gain more authority over themselves as a peoples and they pointed out the number was it was either 250 million or 300 million but she said it's the largest movement that is happening we have 250 to 300 million people around the world that are standing up for indigenous rights and for native rights and for making sure that historical injustice --is are addressed and so I just wanted to point that out again it's this really large movement and the ump oh it has 44 different peoples that have been recognized and as you're pointing out.

In one of the testimonies it's there in the resolution but just to underscore it that there are success stories from those who are participated Palau was one of the founding members and they have succeeded in that effort and not only that in the testimony that we had from Miss Emma it was really touching to me where at the end she said that they've been part of this after she just emphasized the importance of international pressure because it does work is that she said she's looking forward to the day where we can proudly say we are no longer a member of the UNPO and should we get into the organization I think that that would be our hopes as well as we would look forward to that day so just the last question and I think it's just important to clarify it so by participating here right now we're at that educational point we haven't gone farther than that we're trying to make it a really strong educational campaign because I think most of us have a lot to learn this including myself that every day there's something more to learn no matter how long we've studied it already so does participating in an organization like this is it going to limit our us to just do they focus on just one status option do you think it's going to limit us to only one option that they tend to lobby for if you could discuss that a bit and so I don't think it would because if we look at sort

of the different members that have been a part of it some of them have sought independence.

While others have sought assistance in negotiating with the governments and so the groups want completely different things in a certain way right the it isn't that you want inclusion or you want independence it is really just that you are in a position where you are left out of power where you are unrepresented where there's no one where as we discussed laws are made they're not made with you in mind but they affect you and so and so that's some so it I don't think I've never seen anything where it was that they were specifically focusing on any status in that sense because when we look at the diversity of groups that are part of it some of them wouldn't necessarily want independence DC for example those that are coming from Washington DC want full incorporation equal but then there's other groups that want their own state they want to become independence and independent and have their own state and so the fact that there's room for all these groups shows that they create a foundation based on lack of representation lack of rights but then from there they find the issues that connect these people these peoples and then they sort of promote and campaign based on those things so they take up issues of environmental protection of education literacy voting rights all of these things and then when they take up those campaigns then those places that have issues related to that are kind of roped into it and become part of the outreach and the education so I wouldn't so I would and that's why I mentioned the issue of voting rights earlier because they were promoting.

The issue and there are people on Guam that care deeply about that issue I personally wouldn't necessarily want to vote in the United States and being corporate that's not my preferred future for the island but that's the a testament to you NPO is that it's not about just independence because there are peoples that would like an equal say in the country they're in and they deserve to have a voice to not just those that want to be free but also those that just want to be treated equal and as my last comment and then I'll wrap it up I promise but in what you had written that that I had read out loud and in your statement here it reminded me of an op-ed that I had written so somebody somebody had come up with a very good term I've never been able to

track down who it was but it really resonated with me and it still does and it's that term visibly absent and you know I think again a lot of us were born and raised in this environment we it's So familiar you're we just don't even see it and with that term visibly absent so most of us can probably say some of the ways that we are absent in our current situation that we know we don't have a senator that we know we don't have a full member in the House of Representatives that we don't have any real vote for the president in the electoral college but if we take that farther I mean for 120 years we've been dead ministered by this other power .

It goes much farther than that 120 years later we have no star on the flag as I've said there are five of us territories we could just have a point I think if even we had a point and ~~altogether~~ made a star maybe that would feel like something okay we don't even have that and if you look at your typical map one of the examples I give is if your niece

or nephew was starting kindergarten you were so excited for them right and you wanted to buy them a map a puzzle map what options would we have the only options we'd have really is to buy them a puzzle map were 120 years later we're still not on it they wouldn't be able to find this map with us on it. I even wrote in one time to the Today Show because when they did the national weather I want I wanted them to talk about us but you know it's just all of those signals were absent we're so absent its visible we're not on their national weather discussions on the morning shows we're not on the maps we have we're not on the flag we have no real voice in Congress and yet they have that absolute authority over us so I just wanted to point that out again and to be able to have some element some organization that might be able to help us have some power in a very imbalanced situation where we are continually silenced when we don't have a seat at the table others decide for us who will be present here who will be able to have military presence here whether the Marianas Trench will be given away from us all of that is decided without us I'm not sure if there was any last statement but I'll turn it over to the speaker so that she can finally close thank you for your indulgence and mattify may we refer to it as we don't have a presence in their psychology well said well said Thank You

Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes: I know that you two have been very passionate and I've allowed that time over the five-minute limit only because I do understand the importance and where we need to go I will note for the listening audience and reference to resolution 255 - 35 (COR) that it is our intent as the my intent as the author of the legislation that if there was a concern regarding the payment and the fee for that that that I asked Amina Ghent I think on unless the children gone does hereby recognize the struggles of the people of woman further urges the speaker of the legislature and the chairwoman on the committee of federal and foreign affairs to work with UNPO to cement Guam status as a UNPO member and then also certifying as the speaker and the legislative secretary that this adoption be transmitted to our *Maga'Haga* so we can continue our relationship with working with the administration and seeing our cause I

will note for the record that independent Guahan is here and their efforts are moving this forward and in in in no way that that this is in support or not in support of the of independence but we did note that whether it be statehood free association or independence that we need that voice and we've been here decades later and we still don't have that voice and leadership begins with listening I've heard the concerns I've gone through the presentations and this is one way that we can step up to even look at another alternative to help with our voice so that we can be heard.

I did receive a note to ask that Mr. Mitchell's comments are being noted for the record I will do that request Hello, madam Speaker Tina Muña Barnes I write in support of you and Peele resolution 255 - 35 as app allowance citizen and the supporter of right to self-determination I was happy to hear Guam taking the initiative to engage with the international community by joining UNPO an organization that was an important resource in Palau zone self-determination and decolonization process as the

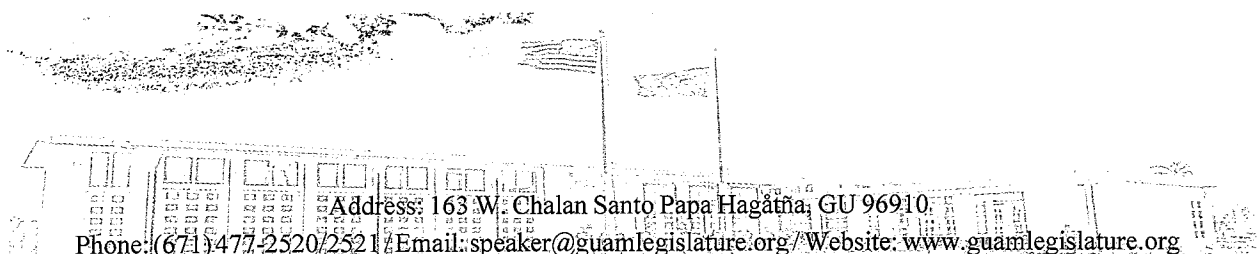
founding member in 1991 Palau would come to achieve independence with the support of you and peel now independent Palau sits as a supporting member of you NPO along with the nations of Latvia Estonia and Armenia the process for self-determination is a long and arduous one resolution 255 – 35 represents Guam's commitment to this process upon passage of resolution 255 -35 it will allow for a new collaboration and coordinate opportunities with people of similar flights and reaffirms qualms undying right of self-determination to the administering power sincerely Harold Mitchell I thank you for allowing me to read that on Mr. Mitchell's behalf.

Our hero Mitchell's behalf I think it was important and that they wanted read so that the listening audience because Palau is part of our blue continent a part of the islands the Pacific island nations that are very close to us and that our partner with us and not just the association of Pacific island legislators but also with others like UNPO and other organizations that continue to bring the forefront of little countries that need and want to come together so I want to be clear that this is the leadership of the legislature stepping up to the plate asking to work closely with the administration and our *Maga'Haga* going on and of course the Segundo Miguel ahi with that efforts being done I'm we're going to go ahead and close up I will note for the record that anyone who wishes to present written testimony they can do so by sending it to [speaker@Guam legislature.org](mailto:speaker@guamlegislature.org) or you may send or hand deliver your testimony to 163 Chalan Santo Papa Hagatna Guam, 96910 and that's the address for the Guam Congress building sharing this this long public hearing with us but more importantly we look to having an expeditious reporting out of this resolution and hopefully we can have it in next month's session agenda but again blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you and thank you so much for staying with us and hearing Resolution number of 255 - 35 LS and with that being said I will call this public hearing on this resolution adjourned at 6:31 p.m. Thank you and have a Merry Christmas

The public hearing was adjourned at 6:31 PM

III. Findings and Recommendations

Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Author, hereby reports out Resolution No. 255-35(LS), As Introduced: To Adopt.



I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2019 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 25-35 (COR/LS)

Introduced by:

Tina Rose Muña Barnes

Joe S. San Agustin

Kelly Marsh (Taitano)

Amanda L. Shelton

Jose "PEDO" Terlate

**Relative to supporting Guam's application for membership to the
Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO).**

BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN*
***GUÅHAN*:**

WHEREAS, the Unrepresented Peoples and Nations Organization (UNPO) is an international membership-based organization established to empower the voices of unrepresented and marginalized peoples worldwide and to protect their fundamental human rights; and

WHEREAS, the UNPO was conceived of in the late 1980s by exiled leaders of people living under communist oppression, and

WHEREAS, The UNPO was formally founded in February 1991 at the Peace Palace in The Hague, by representatives of movements belonging to Australian Aboriginals, Armenia, Crimean Tatars, Cordillera, East Turkestan, Estonia, Georgia, the Greek Minority in Albania, Kurdistan, Latvia, Palau, Tibet, Taiwan, Tatarstan and West Papua. They were joined just a few months later by representatives from

1 Abkhazia, Aceh, Assyria, the Chittagong Hill Tracts, South Moluccas, Bougainville,
2 Chechnya, Kosova, Zanzibar, and the Mairi and Iraqi Turkmen people; and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, Since then, UNPO's membership has grown steadily from its
5 original founders, with membership from more than 45 peoples worldwide, comprising
6 over 300 million people lacking true representation in domestic or international forums;
7 and

8 **WHEREAS**, Since its founding, many members have achieved their movement's
9 goals and found a formal seat for their people at the national or international level and
10 have thus left the organization as their peoples are no longer considered to be
11 "unrepresented" – including the Republic of Palau; and

12
13 **WHEREAS**, the UNPO serves as a forum, and advocacy group for groups that
14 have been disenfranchised; and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, the UNPO membership, comprised of Indigenous Communities,
17 Occupied Territories, Unrecognized States, and Minorities, came together to protect the
18 equal right of all peoples to self-determination, adhere to internationally-accepted
19 human rights standards, adhere to the principles of democratic pluralism and rejection
20 of intolerance, promote non-violence and the rejection of terrorism and violence as
21 instruments of policy as well as the protection of the natural environment; and

22
23 **WHEREAS**, Guam is a territory of the United States, with no vote in Congress,
24 and her People have systematically been denied their right to vote for their President;
25 and

1 **WHEREAS**, since the beginning of the relationship with the United States, the
2 People of Guam have never been given the ability to voice their opinion, or make a
3 decision; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, Guam, through its Legislature, based on the policies it has put forth,
6 has upheld the principles of the UNPO covenant, this includes the equal right of all
7 peoples to self-determination, adherence to internationally-accepted human rights
8 standards, adherence to the principles of democratic pluralism and rejection of
9 intolerance, promoting non-violence and the rejection of terrorism and violence as
10 instruments of policy as well as the protection of the natural environment; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, for over a decade, the People of Guam have appealed to the United
13 Nations to intervene and protect the fundamental rights of the People of Guam – to date
14 there has been no reprieve; and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, Guam is not the only place where the United States asserts its
17 dominance over a locality and prohibits their participation in the democratic process;
18 and

19 **WHEREAS**, the District of Columbia is also a member of the UNPO, and
20 actively fighting for equal representation is the United States Congress as well; and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, Guam can additionally benefit from its membership to the UNPO
23 be having a seat on the international stage, and access to global bodies that are mandated
24 to defend our rights; now therefore, be it
25

1 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby
2 recognize the struggles of the People of Guam and further urges the Speaker of the
3 Legislature, and the Chairwoman on the Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs to
4 work with the UNPO to cement Guam's status as a UNPO member; and be it further

5
6 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the
7 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable
8 Lourdes Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hagan Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE ___ DAY OF _____ 2019.

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Speaker

RÉGINE BISCOE LEE
Chair, Committee on Rules

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary