



Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV)

Item 4: General Debate

Forced Sterilization of Indigenous Women in Canada; Blatant Violation of Human Rights

Mr. President

While the sexual sterilization law in Canada was suspended in 1972, once again in 2015 there were reports of forced sterilization of indigenous women in Saskatchewan State hospitals. Received reports indicate that sterilization policies under cover of “family planning” are still in place in some states in Canada. Currently 60 indigenous women have filed complaints about forced sterilization that took place in Saskatchewan State in the last 30 years. Similar complaints have been filed in other states such as North Battleford and Regina and some other rural areas.

This procedure is a clear violation of human rights and systemic institutional racism and discrimination that negatively affects the quality of life for Indigenous People.¹ As the United Nations Committee Against Torture stated, the allegations amounted to torture. The committee urged Canada to take action to address them and to report back with progress of the investigations.²

Mr President

Our NGO urges Canada to remain fully committed to both Canadian law and international conventions to which Canada is a signatory and to criminalize forced sterilizations in the country.

We call on Canadian officials to impartially investigate all allegations, including recent ones in Saskatchewan, and bring those responsible for the crimes to justice.

We recommend all media and human rights activists to cover more women stories from across Canada who have been victims of forced or coerced sterilization in recent years.

¹<https://newint.org/features/2018/11/29/canadas-shame-coerced-sterilization-indigenous-women>

²<https://nationalpost.com/news/world/rcmp-should-investigate-allegations-of-forced-coerced-sterilizations-of-indigenous-women-says-ndp-mp>