



For Immediate Release

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Media Advisory

Sarawak Community Members Testify at Launch of Human Rights Fact-Finding Report

Who:

- Community members affected by the proposed Baram Dam
- Independent Human Rights Report Fact-finding Team Members

What:

On 18th August 2014, an independent fact-finding mission report that reveals systematic abuses of indigenous peoples' rights along the Baram River committed by Sarawak Energy Berhad (SEB), their consultants and the Government of Sarawak, will be launched at a press briefing in Kuala Lumpur. The fact-finding team's report is entitled: **"No Consent to Proceed: Indigenous Peoples' Rights Violations at the Proposed Baram Dam in Sarawak"** and is published by the Sarawak-based group SAVE Rivers. Longhouse residents of the Baram communities along with members of the fact-finding team will be present at the press briefing to discuss their perspectives and will be available for follow-up interviews. The press briefing will be moderated by Mr. Yap Swee Seng, Executive Director of SUARAM.

Fact-finding team members include Wong Meng-Chuo, Thomas Jalong and Tanya Lee. They conducted interviews in Kayan, Kenyah and Penan villages that will be affected by the Baram Dam in February 2014. The fact-finding mission concluded that the actions taken by SEB and the Sarawak Government to begin preparations for the Baram Dam violate the Malaysian Federal Constitution and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. All violations have taken place within a climate of impunity. The conclusions and recommendations of the report are endorsed by Jaringan Orang Asal SeMalaysia (JOAS), Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM), Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA), Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), Bruno Manser Fund and International Rivers, and will be formally presented to the National Human Rights Commission (SUHAKAM).

Where: KL & Selangor Chinese Assembly Hall, Auditorium (1 Jalan Maharajalela, 50150, Kuala Lumpur)

When: Monday 18 August at 11am

Hard copies of the report are available upon request. Please e-mail: tlee@internationalrivers.org

Report will be online (embargoed until 18 August, 2014):

www.savesarawakrivers.com | www.internationalrivers.org

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