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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(31.3.2026)

The rights of indigenous peoples are an integral part of the EU's human rights policy, as spelled out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Council conclusions on Indigenous Peoples of May 2017 underline the importance of addressing 'the threats to and violence against indigenous peoples and individuals as well as to human rights defenders'¹.

The EU is actively engaging in and directly supporting – through dedicated projects – all efforts to enhance the full, effective and meaningful participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in relevant UN bodies as well as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties.

As stipulated in the European Council conclusions of 21-22 March 2024², the EU calls for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners in Russia and an end to the persecution of the political opposition, as well as a stop to prosecutions of indigenous people, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minority communities.

On 27 May 2024, the EU decided to adopt a sanctions regime in view of human rights violations and abuses in Russia³. Currently, 72 individuals and one entity are sanctioned under this regime. The EU continues to support Russian civil society, human rights defenders and independent media. Trial observation by diplomats has been an important instrument. The Delegation of the EU to the Russian Federation representative observed the first hearing of the trial against Daria Egereva at Moscow City Court on 11 February 2026.

¹ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-8814-2017-INIT/en/pdf>.

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/03/22/european-council-conclusions-21-and-22-march-2024/>.

³ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/sanctions-against-russia-human-rights/>.