



Gállok Resolution

On the Occasion of the 6th World Reindeer Herders' Congress in Jåhkâmåhkke, Sweden, August 16-20, 2017

On the occasion of the of 6th World Reindeer Herders Congress in Jåhkâmåhkke, August 16-20, 2017, the Congress calls for attention to the planned mining activities in the site of Gállok:

The Sámi villages of Jåhkâmåhkke have from the beginning resisted the Gállok mine that is planned in the middle of key reindeer grazing lands. This mine will have a devastating impact on reindeer husbandry in Jåhkâmåhkke as well as for Sámi reindeer husbandry as a whole.

Reindeer herding represents a circumpolar model for sustainable management of the barren Arctic and Sub-Arctic areas, utilizing marginal natural resources which can hardly be used by others, and which historically has not displaced others.

The Congress underlines that loss and fragmentation of grazing lands is one of the biggest threats for reindeer herding in the future, and that the situation is severe in Scandinavia where the upper limit for what reindeer herding can adapt to in these areas is reached. We have witnessed the heavy impacts of mining industries in Sweden and underline that lands that are once lost to mining are forever lost as grazing lands, as well as its natural values and eco-systems, and that there are no such things as "green" or "sustainable" mining.

The mine of Gállok is close to the Laponia World Heritage site, and the Swedish government has a responsibility to protect reindeer herding and a living Sámi culture as one of the main values of the World Heritage. Reindeer herding in the Laponia area cannot function when grazing lands straight outside of Laponia are destroyed.

The Gállok mine threatens the sustainable use of the areas that reindeer herding represents and the culture, lifestyle, language, health and wellbeing for an Arctic indigenous people that the Sámi represents, as well as the high values of biodiversity of this region.

Hereby the 6th World Reindeer Herders' Congress declares

its support for the Sámi villages of Jåhkåmåhkke and their resistance against the mine in Gállok,

and urges Sweden to

respect indigenous rights and to fulfill its responsibility to protect reindeer herding and a living Sámi culture in the area of Laponia World Heritage,
and

support and protect sustainable, long- time use of these areas in favour for short time exploration of natural resources, and therefore stop the Gállok mine.
