

## Solidarity with Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories (5/25-31)

The United Nations commemorates the International Week of Solidarity with Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories annually from May 25 to May 31. The U.N. Charter includes a "Declaration on Non-Self-Governing Territories" that the interests of the occupants of dependent territories are paramount and requires member states of the United Nations in control of such territories to submit annual information reports concerning the development of those governments.

**GUAM** is one of the dependent territories on the [United Nations list of non-self-governing territories](#) and It is an organized, unincorporated territory of the United States. It is one of the three territories under the jurisdiction of the US of the Office of Insular Affairs. [Guam](#) is a [two party presidential representative democracy](#), in which the [Governor](#) is the [head of government](#). The [economic situation in Guam](#) is currently dependent on the significant U.S. military presence there. Its status as a tourist destination for Japanese, Singaporeans and South Koreans also contributes to Guam's economy. It has also emerged as a destination for [economic migrants](#) from the Philippines working at lower-wage jobs in the [hospitality industry](#).

**Puerto Rico** was removed from the list of non-self-governing territories by the United Nations in 1953, but remains subject to Territorial Clause of the U.S. Constitution. It is a territory belonging to the United States. Although Puerto Ricans are American citizens by birth and are subject to most American federal laws, they cannot vote in presidential elections and do not have voting representation in Congress since Puerto Rico is neither an independent country nor a state. To learn more about one aspect of this challenging status, consider learning about disaster capitalism by reading the book, [The Battle for Paradise: Puerto Rico Takes on the Disaster Capitalists](#) by Neomi Klein.

Although the **United Nations** took the step to safeguard the protection of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories' intrinsic rights, we need to ensure that we keep the governments of the administering power accountable to ensure that people who live in these territories are not deprived of their rights to their lands, lifestyle, and all the resources their land offers. It is important to keep governing powers accountable to allow for this. It is important to be informed about the future development of natural resources in the Territories. It is also important to seek that the administering powers take steps to protect their natural resources, especially land.

