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Pioneer Press

UN expert hears Hmong complaints about Thai graves

A United Nations human rights expert says he will present the concerns of Hmong immigrants in Minnesota about disturbed graves in Thailand to the Thai government.

U.N. Special Rapporteur James Anaya was in St. Paul on Wednesday hearing testimony from Hmong families about the desecration of those graves.

They described the emotional misery they've suffered since learning that hundreds of graves had been unearthed near a Buddhist temple where many Hmong refugees once lived.

Anaya calls their stories "disturbing," but he finds their determination to have their rights respected encouraging.

Many Hmong families members say they want the Thai government to apologize. They also want promises that it won't happen again.