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United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Sixth Session

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Agenda item 4 (g) Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Recommendation submitted by the: Ethiopian World Federation, International Indigenous Historical Society, The Longhouse 1, Taitu Betul International University, Yahshemabet Archives, Roots and Culture Productions, Genealogy and Reciprocity Reclamation.

The Survival of the Forgotten 2007

Madam Chairperson, members of the Permanent Forum, Panelist, Indigenous sisters and brother, ladies and gentlemen, **I am Ollie McClean** - a perfect example know as an **Melinin Indigenous Woman** from the **Western Hemisphere** within **Indigenous Peoples** know to be – Washita...

Over 400 years ago. Indigenous Peoples from the Eastern Hemisphere were stolen from their homeland. Historians have estimated that close to 100 million lost their lives transporting goods on their backs across the Sahara Desert to the waiting ships that were to bring them to the New World.

The multitude of captive Indigenous Peoples from the Eastern Hemisphere that became the profitable cargo on what is known as the "slave ships", suffered the cruelest indignations and deaths known to mankind. The journey from Afrika shores to the Caribbean and on throughout the Americas is called the Middle Passage. This Holocaust of over 100,000 million soul are responsible for millions from the Eastern Hemisphere being buried below, paving the bottom of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans with the remains of Original Indigenous Peoples.

The invaders threw overboard the bodies of those who succumbed to the devastating conditions on board. Millions who were captured were unwilling to submit to the barbaric treatment, jumped overboard into shark-infested waters to escape the torture,

It is a miracle that anyone could survive a voyage marked by the heinous physical torture .disease, unsanitary conditions, and the lack of basic human needs, such as air, light, food, water and space. Men. women and children were packed tightly into the unsanitary hulls of the ships for a journey that lasted months on end.

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Once these slave ships docked in the Caribbean and the Indigenous lands within the Western Hemisphere, the fate of the captive - worsened! The kidnappers displayed a behavior unlike that of any animal known to mankind. Their system of selling their victims on auction blocks, as we see cattle sold today to the highest bidder, was Draconian. Families were literally torn apart — husbands, wives and children were separated. Babies snatched from their mother's breasts, never to see one another again for life.

For centuries after, Indigenous Peoples from the Eastern Hemisphere suffered under governmental systems on two continents that re-institutionalized chattel slavery, Apartheid, Jim Crow and Radical Racist Laws that left the en-slaved Original Indigenous Peoples of the Eastern and Western Hemisphere 100% disenfranchised.

Our Original Indigenous Peoples from the Eastern and Western Hemisphere, whom were invaded and captured, suffered a loss like no other recorded in the annals of history. They were robbed from their homeland — robbed of the rich fertile land, robbed of their cultures, their languages — their societies robbed of their religion, their history, their manhood, their womanhood, their childhood, their Nationality – Birthright and Sovereignty. For Four hundred years Indigenous Peoples of the Eastern and Western Hemisphere have been forcibly Indoctrinated and robbed of their self-respect.

Two continents were built on their backs. The descendants from these Indigenous Peoples are prevented from living with their cultural dignity and traditional pride [The descendants from these Indigenous Peoples have been placed in situations of forced systems that further assimilate the descendants of enslaved Indigenous People who were victims within the Middle Passage and continue to live in colonized states of enslavement at home and abroad. Over the centuries they have nursed the oppressors babies with their children's milk, farmed crops for absolutely little or no profit, fought in wars and built the Nations to no Avail!

For over two hundred years this Nation would not have become the world power it is today without the enslaved labor force, the technology and the natural resources taken from the Indigenous Peoples from the Eastern and Western Hemisphere.

In 1990, the bones from the first Original Indigenous Peoples brought to this land as chattel slaves were ruthlessly excavated from their final resting place against the outcries and numerous demonstrations by the many descendant from who represents community. Their remains were disturbed when the Federal government decided to build an office tower at Duane, Elk, and Reade Streets in lower Manhattan, New York City.

There was never a question that this parcel of land and the surrounding seven acres was the burial ground for over 20,000 Enslaved Indigenous Peoples from the Eastern Hemisphere and many others were identified as being Original Indigenous Peoples from the Western Hemisphere! New York City maps and records clearly indicate the cemetery as the earliest and largest Indigenous Burial Ground for Original Peoples burial within the Western Hemisphere.

Research on the 427 remains excavated from the site was performed at Howard University, Washington, DC. The scientific studies concluded that most of the 427 men, women and mostly children, did not die normal deaths. Their research proved most lost their lives at an early age because they were abused and/or worked to death!

The descendant community is locked into an ongoing struggle with the U.S. government agency GSA (General Services Administration) to bring respect and dignity to the lives and memories for all these who are buried within this grave site.

Today, they are building a structure on the gravesite. All construction is provided by descendants related to the enslaver. The administrator and his chief of staff both lost their positions due to monumental governmental scandal. Yet, this government would not put a moratorium on their decisions when there was such an outcry from the Decedents who represents those buried within this Burial site. This cemetery, like most other Indigenous Burial Grounds for Original Indigenous Peoples, is no longer sacred ground. It is being made into a tourist attraction where the proceeds will only benefit those who profited off the free labor from those buried within our Indigenous Soil.

The Indigenous Peoples who represent this community understand fully that propaganda is the first weapon for war. War continues to be waged on our Indigenous peoples here in Western Hemisphere and the Eastern Hemisphere.

Many nations are guilty of spreading lies that the enslaved Indigenous Peoples of the Eastern and Western Hemisphere are responsible for their plight and they are happy in their life of servitude today.

The Ethiopian World Federation realizes that justice on all levels, within all Nations is a futile effort — our cause must be decided by a higher authority. Because of the International enslavement and exploitation implemented on Indigenous Peoples from both the Eastern and Western Hemisphere and the illicit justifiable process based Invading Lands, Seizing Territories, Removing Our Original Peoples and the animals from their Ancestral Territories and profiting from the Natural Resources on the land and legacies — We recommend complete intervention at this juncture with the assistance from the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in the above discussed areas which greatly concerns the body of the Ethiopian World Federation and the Indigenous Peoples from both the Eastern and Western Hemisphere for which we represent.

Attention to this issue is long overdue. Invasion on non-conflict territories, Kidnapping and forced enslavement on un-armed Indigenous Peoples for the sole purpose in gaining economic wealth and social stature is a complete and utter crime against Humanity and we proclaim that Justice be met with a proper and accurate redress on Original Indigenous Peoples Issues whom are represented by the Ethiopian World Federation from both the Eastern and Western Hemisphere. Our grievances are based on our Inherent rights to our land, territories and natural resources so that we can once again self sustain ourselves within ecological sustainable communities fitting our idea on perfect manhood and womanhood.

Thank you,

Ollie McClean

EWF UN Representative in New York, NY

Ethiopian World Federation