

Tenth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

May 26, 2011

Agenda Item 9: **Draft Agenda for the Eleventh Session of the Permanent Forum**

Indigenous Women Diaspora Caucus

Dear Madam Chairperson,

I, Lobi RedHawk, am a member of the Gray Panthers and speaking on behalf of the Longhouse Treaty Nations seek to establish and represent the Indigenous Women Diaspora Caucus.

It is with great concern that our team of Indigenous women of the Diaspora are submitting this intervention on item 9 Special Rapporteur's study on international criminal law and the judicial defense of indigenous peoples' rights.

We are indigenous women whose rights are being ignored, criminalized and demeaned as non existent. The foundation of the UNPFII is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is imperative, as the United Nations has established the Decade of the African Diaspora that Indigenous Issues of diaspora women be brought to the forefront of UNPFII Forum for full discussion, initiation and implementation for just responsible solutions based on our Human Rights.

Let us now explore the following concerns openly:

Protection of the Indigenous Diaspora women, her offspring, youth and family are necessary for our full solidarity, activation of our Human Rights, advocacy, and initiative implementation of the sovereign law that honors our full participation which facilitates the right to:

- Adequate accessible, available transportation, health and dental facilities, and Indigenous learning centers.

- The Human Right to engage Indigenous Religious and Spiritual beliefs.
- Protective measures that honors Indigenous Law and its activation and implementation for full participation in free, prior and informed consent.

Nationality displacement is an issue because the North American Caucus and African Caucus does not and cannot represent our specific issues and concerns as Indigenous Sovereign Women. Our voices must have agency in the application and implementation of our specific interests, being:

- Physical safety from sexual assault, rape and sexual harassment, domestic violence and violence against women.
- Economic, Social and Ecological Sustainability.
- The human right to clean, safe potable water and healthy, nutritious, life sustaining indigenous food source and supply.
- The human right to adequate, sustainable waste management and sanitation facilities.
- The uninterrupted full use of our sovereign land and natural resources.
- The human right to partner, trade, develop infrastructures and markets that sustain indigenous economic, social and ecological options.