

We are Yamasi People from southeastern North America. We appear here today as a leading member of the Muskogee Confederacy under US attack because of our political identity. We have not agreed to US-proposed treaties but continue to try to engage the US in peace talks.

Meanwhile, Yamasi of all ages have suffered harassment, espionage, stalking, fraudulent relationships, and attacks at church, school, work, and neighborhoods. While we go without food, housing, healthcare, and education, Yamasi have suffered from assault, arson, abduction, imprisonment, drugging, and other crimes. The US has terrorized our culture-bearers into silence as we try to protect our young from US identification. The US has sabotaged our efforts to get land, food, education, health care, housing, employment, and other benefits of the US economy after our Native economy was destroyed. Consequently our people are economically enslaved to the agents of US force that have attacked us in an increasingly intensified effort to extinguish our rights as indigenous people.

The US has refused to take “no” for an answer to its demand that we allow the US to destroy us with federalization. We do not want US federalization to colonize, degrade, destroy, and deconstruct our people, land, and culture as we have seen done to too many indigenous peoples. Because we will not consent to federalization the US has abducted, assaulted, and abused Yamasi women, covertly recording the names of our children as federalized “Indians.”

We ask the UN to set up a special office to handle the human rights violations and war crimes committed against indigenous peoples as we are political entities. We know the Rapporteur cannot visit all the hundreds of Peoples who have raised human rights complaints between now and next year. Giving specialized attention to the human rights violations and war crimes committed against indigenous peoples will reduce attacks upon indigenous peoples and protect them from the unintended consequences of the UN Declaration, which are the efforts of too many national governments to destroy indigenous peoples in order to evade their responsibilities.

Next year we need to focus the agenda on agenda item 1: Human rights, so that all of us, even the Yamasi, can be heard. We propose Human Rights as #1 followed by the following subheadings:

a) Review

- 1) UN response to human rights addressed in 2008 permanent forum
- 2) Process for IPOs raising human rights issues
- 3) UN special Mechanism, Expert Body, and Office of Rapporteur
- 4) Status of indigenous human rights complaint

b) Proposals for improvement of Human Rights situation

c) Proposals for improvement of UN response to Indigenous Human Rights violation

c) Proposal for adoption of PF response to Review of 2008 Human Rights Issues

e) Proposal for adoption of PF response to Review of Human Rights Processes

f) Solicitation of New Human Rights Issues from Indigenous Peoples

g) Proposal for adoption of PF response to 2009 Human Rights Issues

If indigenous people are to survive we must now divorce the issue of indigenous land rights from human rights. We ask that this office of indigenous peoples' human rights work with clouded national governments to clarify that indigenous people are humans first and holders of land rights second. The Yamasi People ask the UN to require the US signatories to uphold the Geneva Convention, the UN Declaration on Human Rights, and the UN Genocide Convention and free Yamasi hostages held by US-backed forces.

Indigenous People are human. Through all these generations of cultural, political, economic, spiritual, and physical attacks, God who created the land and people has preserved the Yamasi. Maybe God is trying to tell the world something. Next year I hope we can make time to listen.