



HAUDENOSAUNEE

MOHAWK - ONEIDA - ONONDAGA - CAYUGA --SENECA - TUSCADORA

The Chiefs and Clanmothers of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Council at Six Nations send Greetings of

Joint Statement by the Mohawk Nation at Kahnawake, the Oneida Nation Council of Chiefs, and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Council to the 24th Session of *the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations*

Agenda Item 4.C: *Indigenous Peoples and Conflict Prevention and Resolution*

Presented on the behalf of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Council
Six Nations of the Grand River Territory

August 2006

Mr. Chairperson, Honorable Delegates, and friends of Indigenous People,

peace and kindness to all of you. Since February 28, 2006, our people have taken action to reclaim jurisdiction over lands that rightfully belong to the Six Nations people of Grand River.

These lands were promised by way of the Haldimand Proclamation in 1784, which guarantees to our people; six miles on each side of the Grand River from its mouth to its source. However, since then much of our land has been encroached upon by the non-indigenous jurisdictions that surround us. As the legitimate authority responsible for the territorial integrity of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, we are charged with the duty of securing and protecting our lands. Likewise, we maintain that these lands have never been surrendered and consider it Haudenosaunee Territory.

Unfortunately, the Government of Canada does not recognize this treaty and does not consider the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Council to be a legitimate governing authority since the Royal Canadian Mounted Police violently removed our council by force of arms in 1924; in an attempt to further assimilate and terminate the Haudenosaunee as an independent and self-determining people.

Since February 2006, the current process to reclaim Haudenosaunee lands has been peaceful and without weapons - using only our bodies to assert sovereignty. However, Henco Industries, who illegally commandeered these lands managed to secure a court injunction (from a judge who happens to have financial interests within the Haldimand Tract) to remove the true proprietors of the land.

On April 20, 2006; the Ontario Provincial Police launched a predawn attack upon our people at the reclamation site; instigating a violent clash where many youth, elders, women, and men were shot by tazor guns, pepper-sprayed, and beaten. Members of the Six Nations community responded by escorting the Ontario Provincial Police off of the reclamation site and immediately blocked surrounding highways and railways as a means to defend themselves from any further attacks.