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United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Sixth Session

New York, 14-25 May 2007

Agenda Item 7 Half-day discussion on Urban Indigenous Peoples and migration

Collective Recommendation submitted by the: Ethiopian World Federation, International Indigenous Historical Society, The Longhouse 1, Taitu Betul International University, Arts International School, Genealogy and Reciprocity Reclamation.

The Forgotten Indigenous: Our Culture, Tradition & Heritage Was Sustainability.

Special Theme: "Territories, Lands and Natural Resources.

By Taalibah Blue Sky Reape

There are some things in creation that can not or will not be severed and there are some things that will not be silenced. The element of their existence transcends the daily activities of the lives we live. It is a nuance or an ethereal essence of spirit that refuses to be denied its right to exist. No matter how persistent the foe, no matter how debilitating the attack, and no matter how many methods of destruction are used to exterminate its presence, it remains just the same, waiting diligently, observing patiently for the opportunity to make itself known. To those of you who thought you had destroyed all connections to our ancient past and to those who still continue to implement plans for our further demise, let it be known and completely understood, that you may have an agenda that you wish to fulfill, but the Great Spirit, creator of all manifested thought has an ultimate plan. One can not dismiss the universal law of cause and effect and those responsible for great imbalance will eventual circum to the effect of their actions. The elemental legacy of our past has awakened, the still quiet nuance begins now to solidify, and the ethereal essence of spirit that refused to die will again reignite the flame of light from the East to the West and from the North to the South among the descendents of the ancient ones. The Ani and Anu peoples of Elohi (Mother Earth).

After many tedious hours of research examining historical documents and written works by noted scholars such as: Dr. Ivan von Sertima, "They came Before Columbus", Prof. Alexander Von Wuthenau, "Unexplained Faces in Ancient America" and Mr. Berry Fell author of "America B.C. Ancient Settlers in the New World" I found myself overwhelmed and greatly sadden by the sheer outright distortion of history that has prevailed against the Indigenous, melanin nations of the earth, especially that of the miss-classified "Black Natives" living in Western hemisphere. I say miss classified because the color of someone skin was never an issue for the inhumane treatment Indigenous Peoples in the Americas. We were a culmination of many hues, and a grand multitude of nations and tribes, but it is those Indigenous Melanin Peoples who have culturally lost the most. From the very moment the Conquistadors and other Europeans set foot on our lands, there has been nothing but confusion, grief and sickness. It is only by divine intervention that any have survived at. A member of the Mohegan nation had once stated that the Indigenous Nations from Eastern America were hit with the greatest force, like that of a tidal wave. When the last of this tidal wave reached the Indigenous Plains Nations they were at least, though greatly oppressed able to hold on to a measurable amount of their culture. Colonist began to create laws for separation; everyone who was not a Caucasian, Anglo-Saxon (European) were labeled either a savage, or an infidel. From October 1629 to October 1705 racist laws of separation were enacted.

JAMESTOWN, VIRGINIA LAW ENACTMENTS 1705

October 1705 What constitutes a mulatto in regard and office of public service. Be it enacted and declared, and is hereby enacted and declared. That the child of and Indian and grandchild or great grandchild of a Negro, shall be deemed, accounted, held and taken to be a mulatto.

October 1705 XI An act concerning servants and slaves. For further Christian care and usage of all Christian servants. Be it also enacted by the authority aforesaid, and it is hereby enacted, That no Negroes, Mulattos, or Indians, although Christians, or Jews, Moors, Mohammedans (Muslims), or other infidel, or such as are declared slaves by this act: And if any Negroes, Mulattos, or Indian, Jew, Moor, Mohammedans (Muslim), or other infidel or such as are declared slaves by this act, shall' not withstanding purchase any Christian White servant, the said servant shall, ipso facto, become free and acquit from any service then due, and shall be so held deemed and taken: And if any person having such Christian servant shall intermarry with any such Negro, Mulatto or Indian, Jew, Moor, Mohammedans (Muslims), or other infidel, every such person so intermarrying, shall, ipso facto, become free and acquit from any service then

due to master or mistress so intermarrying as aforesaid.

To make this perfectly clear: the mindset by the ruling colonial government was that anyone whether Indigenous American or either free Africans would be considered slaves. The above Jamestown law clearly reveals that not all Indigenous Peoples were slaves,

THE INTRODUCTORY OF SLAVERY

Before Columbus stepped off his vessel the total occupation of the people was uttered from his lips. In his Journal, Columbus stated that the people of the land were of a giving and docile nature, but greed and consumption were the only focus on the mind of this man. He looked at these attributes as weaknesses and went further on to say, "They would make good slaves". From that time forward barbaric atrocities were committed against the people. One need only to read "The Devastation of the Indies" by Bartolome De las Casas. It is said that all of the Indigenous Peoples of the West Indies were annihilated, yes that was almost the case, but a remnant did survive and only by share wit and by the grace of Great Spirit.

The Indigenous American slave trade was far more extensive than has been allowed to be told. Two colonial claims, now known as North and South Carolina and formally called, "Ye Carolinas of Ye West Indies" was the great hub of slavery. New York City only surpass it, and at one time, it was considered the greatest port for that market. Indigenous Peoples were captured and sold off to the West Indies where they were unable to return to the main land. In the Carolinas, Southern Indigenous Americans were enslaved and kidnapped. Indigenous Africans were enslaved and worked side by side on massive rice plantations. Another unmentioned Slave market was in the plains region. Mass numbers of Pawnee were captured and enslaved in Mexico and surrounding territories.

Today

We are all well aware of the great loss both personal and nationally that Indigenous first people cultures have suffered in circumference world wide. To attend any United Nations conference on any subject matter and not be aware of such understanding would only define one as being extremely sheltered or in a state of great obtuse denial. Yet there are of course other unpleasant factors that could be considered the culprit; such as the destruction of our indigenous legacies. Even if we had been fortunate enough to keep dear to our hearts the oral histories passed down to us, they were labeled and categorized as falsehood.

or some fanciful folktale to be forgotten and ignored. Then there is possibly a more sinister reason, that being the Geopolitical propaganda and imperialistic objectives and directives for economic control of the world's resources adding Indigenous Peoples to that category; The methods of domination and Assimilation were initiated by any means necessary. Indigenous educational system were and most still are institutes of indoctrination.

THE CULTURE AND WHO IS ALLOWED THAT RIGHT!

Numerous questions arise when we contemplate what our ancestors had hoped to pass on to the generations to come. Our communities were the ultimate examples of sustainability, nothing was wasted, and the land was never over taxed or burdened beyond its capacity. Balance in all things was a constant ideal amongst the people, especially that of the Ani-yu-ni-yah more notable known as the Cherokee (tsa-la-gi) and their Northern cousins the Iroquois and the Washitaw. It took organization and spiritual commitment to keep the people in a state of well being. Each technique of survival that was acquired throughout the generations would be added to the next. Our young people had great respect for an elder's know how, and if an elder was blessed to reach a significant age, her or his knowledge would be greatly desired.

When the Europeans arrived to our shores they set forth a constant barrage of dysfunctional cultural contradictions that were and still are extremely damaging to our family structure especially that of the extended family. Europeans and other foreign cultured men married our women producing offspring that were expected to behave according to their cultural ways of life and in turn Indigenous nations felt likewise. Many times the offspring of these marriages would take on leadership rolls within the different nations. It was thought that they would be better able to interpret the motives of those Europeans that were constantly coming in contact with their communities. Treaties had to be established. Interpretation of European thinking was necessary for the community to make a proper decision. Eventually matriarchal systems were dismantled and the patriarchal ideology of western European culture was heavily promoted. Female gender inequality began to be instituted, added to these dysfunctional ideals were extreme class distinctions, wealth privilege, and most noted, ethnic separation by the color of one skin. With the Introduction of color discrimination, it could be said there are three (3) types of Indigenous Peoples; those who are considered full blood, the European mixed-blood, and those Indigenous Washitaw from a melanin complexion or those who are a mixture post 1492 Indigenous African ancestry. The racist policies instituted upon the people has created great division, just recently the Western Cherokee Nation voted to remove "the Freeman" and those who appear to have Indigenous African Ancestry out from the Cherokee Nation. Sadly it always has something to do with money. It is said that the western Cherokee Nation will receive reparations and the less people the more the other will be granted. This has always been the

plight of the Indigenous Washitaw and Indigenous Peoples from African Ancestry in this land, economics has always been the culprit!!!

What Time is It!

It is time for my people to proclaim their Identity, It is time to proclaim our culture and traditions Internationally, It is time to proclaim and re-instate our Nationality, Birth Right and Sovereignty Internationally. This is about our Lands, Territories and Natural Resources. This is about the legacy of your Ancestor's, and that you should honor the information given. There are elders in our communities who remember the old ways and they don't look like the excepted movie image that you have been educated to hold dear. If only you could've met these wonderful elders, many have now passed on and I hold their memories close to my heart. They carried the Legacy of our Ancestry in their transcended souls. Many Indigenous Washitaw Peoples in the Americas know exactly Genealogy for hundreds even thousands of years. They know the Americas for it is their Indigenous Land and Territory. Again much has been lost due to the displacement and miss-classification of our Indigenous Washitaw Peoples from the Americas. To end, in the early 19th century the United States designated all non whites as colored further distorting the Nationality of the Indigenous People from this land and further denying Indigenous Washitaw Peoples their Birthright but now today we proclaim Redemption for the many atrocities inflicted upon our Indigenous Peoples! Do-yi -hi (Peace)

Thank you,

**Taalibah 'Blue Sky' Reape
International Chaplain
UN Representative in New York
Ethiopian World Federation**



We the Indigenous Peoples



We the Indigenous Peoples: Self/Portraits

A photo project with and for indigenous peoples

Do you want to take your own portraits?

Do you want to be in control of your own images?

Do you want the images of indigenous peoples to be positive?

If your answers are positive, then you can participate in a photo project organized by the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. It is a photo project to let you take your own portraits via a remote control and in the meantime, photographer Rong Jiang will also take your portraits to form a combination of self/portraits.

Venue: GA-37 (near the UN gift shops)

Time: 10:00am to 5:00pm, from May 14th to 25th.

For more details, please contact:

Rong Jiang: 212-963-4903

Patricia Jimenez at Conference Room B

Marian Masaquiza: 917-367-6006