



**INTERNATIONAL NATIVE TRADITION INTERCHANGE**  
In Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

April 20, 2018

**17<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations**  
**Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

Hihanna waste, Madam Chair, and the Indigenous Permanent Forum we are honored to be able to speak. I am with the **International Native Tradition Interchange**, I am TaMakaWasteWin an enrolled member of Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and founder of Sacred Stone, we stood up in 2016 against Dakota Access Pipeline for our water with the cry Mni Wiconi - Water is Life – Agua es Vida.

We want to express our support with the United Nations Special Rapporteur and her report on the human rights violations, the human rights violations that happened 2016 Dakota Access Pipeline against Standing Rock Sioux Nation committed by Morton County, local States police and Federal government that supported an oil corporation against the Native people who stood up for our water.

We stood up to protect the water which is the life blood of the world. We suffered the attacks by Mercenaries, National guards, Sheriff, police department, and federal agencies, from military mace, rubber bullets, percussion grenades and water cannons and military strategies that controlled the media and sent in inflictor, they continue attack on our privacy though our Communications, we have had over 800 arrest which included journalists and medics, many who have suffered permanent injuries. Now facing 53 new laws against activists in the United States i consider these to be act of genocide that continues in our own homelands. We still have over 200 Water Protectors going through the court system facing federal prison terms.

They have made indigenous people criminals for standing up for their rights. They attack on those who stand up against injustice and are receiving death threats and being murdered for their beliefs in protecting their homelands across the world. We have no protection for our leaders as they stand up against injustice. Tomorrow how many of Indigenous people will be here?

Today we find that Indigenous lands hold the last of the undeveloped lands and waters. We must have the right to protect and preserve our homeland for the future generations. We must preserve our footprint with our Mother Earth for the future. We must have Free and Prior consent for our homelands.

The Mother Earth should have the same rights as the human who live on this earth. We must speak with one voice from the Amazon to Canada, from the east to, the west as Indigenous people for the Mother Earth. In order to do this, we must stop talking just among ourselves and start talking directly to the United Nations floor and to have an Indigenous vote in the general assembly floor of the United Nations. We should no longer wait for an apology from the governments we need to demand change for our Mother earth and the water for the future generations now. We need to demand the governments to stop criminalize Indigenous people who stand up to protect the land and Water. We demand to be heard and vote on the main floor of the United Nations to make positive change for our people and land. Thank you.