

Chickaloon Village Traditional Council
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I am Chief Gary Harrison of Chickaloon Village a leader of the Aht'na t 'Ana Dena from Alaska. I thank you for the chance to bring our issues to this international Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

I must tell you our history in a nutshell for you to understand our situation in Alaska. First the Spanish came to our land to trade and after contact, many other countries came to our land to trade with our peoples. Captain Cook came looking for an inside passage. The Russians came and treated our peoples as barbarians and tried to claim sovereignty over our lands and territories. United States and Great Britain said no, so Russia did not and could not claim sovereignty over us. So Russia did not claim title and dominion over us. In 1867 the United States and Tsarist Russia created the 1867 Treaty of Cession. Since then the United States has been attempting to claim dominion and trying to change the actual events in history to justify the 1867 Treaty can grant title to our land and resources. This historical fiction is used in United States courts so they can manipulate their law when we go to their courts. They make up the laws using the legal fiction they create an illegal order. The United States knew they had no jurisdiction in our territory so they created the Matanuska Colonization Project in the 1930's and still have not decolonized Alaska according to the United Nations procedures.

Next the United States voted in statehood for Alaska. The Indigenous Peoples were not allowed to vote and the U.S. military was encouraged and did vote. My Uncle R. W. Wade said the military personal was paid 5 dollars to vote. This goes against Article 73 of the United Nations Charter that the United States has ratified. The United States created the State of Alaska and granted to the State land without our consent then conveyed to other interests.

Next, the United States wanted to drill for oil discovered on the North Slope. The United States froze title to the land in Alaska under the diminished aboriginal title when they wanted to drill for oil and put in the trans-Alaska pipeline. In 1971 the United States Congress passed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, an act where the United States conveyed land to Native Corporations that Congress created, and made 3rd party shareholders of the Indigenous Peoples to land and resources that belonged to the Indigenous Peoples. This act excluded children born after 18 December 1971. This is Genocide. Indigenous Peoples of Alaska have never approved of this act.

Now we are subject to thousands of laws of United States and the state of Alaska that no one person can read in a lifetime. There are armed State Troopers driving around to keep us in line. When we get out of hand they pick us up and say that ignorance of the law is no excuse or self-defense. We now go to jail for hunting and fishing.

The United Nations has adopted the legal principle that all peoples have the right of self-determination and right to subsistence in both the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Presently I am in the admiralty and equity court of the corporation state of Alaska for driving with a tribal license. This court asserts its authority over Indigenous Peoples beyond its jurisdiction. The United States and its courts are trying to make this a domestic dispute when we are recognized under international law.

The States of the United Nations are fighting over the "s" in peoples. The action by the United States is Genocide against the Indigenous Peoples of Alaska and would go unchecked by the international community if we do not examine and address these issues. States and Governments should be shocked and outraged instead of collaborating to diminish our rights.

The Artic Policy Report produced in the 80's by the United States tells how they are using our Indigenous Peoples in their studies and we continue to be used as guinea pigs for the study of cancer, pneumonia and hepatitis b among other diseases. When we want copies of our health records and studies we are refused because of national security. We are strong peoples to have survived the scourges that have devastated our peoples in Alaska. We have survived flu, smallpox and polio epidemics to mention a few.

The military has left toxic dump waste sites throughout Alaska. Resource extraction has polluted our lands and waters. Now the United States wants to drill in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge and disrupt the survival of the reindeer and the Gwitch'in Peoples. The United States and the state of Alaska allow multi-national corporations to plunder our wealth and resources. They try to make us believe everyone is benefiting. In fact, several years ago the oil companies celebrated the extraction of 11 billion barrels of oil. With this amount of money every man, woman and child would be a multi-millionaires, instead many people are in poverty and some are dying on the streets.

We hope and pray that bringing these atrocities to the Permanent Forum will bring about positive change so our children and our children's children do not have to suffer.

Thank you - may creator guide our footsteps.

Chief Gary Harrison – Ah'tna t' Ana Dena