



Declaration of Indigenous Nations of the World in respect to the  
500 Year Anniversary of the Invasion of "America"

The representatives of the indigenous nations and peoples of the world, gathered at the 5th session of the United Nations' Working Group on Indigenous Populations, approaching 1992, which marks the fifth century of the European invasion of "the Americas":

1. Considering: That Western European and American governments along with the Catholic Church are organizing a multimillion dollar celebration and festivities of the so-called "500 Year Anniversary of the Discovery and Christianization of America";
2. Considering: That the impact of the invasion of America brought with it genocide, ethnocide, oppression, exploitation, discrimination and marginalization of the indigenous nations;
3. Considering: That the aggression of European colonialism had intended to destroy the systems of states, institutions, policies, societies, economies and cultures of the indigenous nations;
4. Considering: That the interventionist action of European imperialism has imposed its system of state domination, directed against the self-determination of the indigenous nations of the American continent, usurping their resources, their lands, their territories, and disintegrating their socio-cultural systems;
5. Considering: That the other indigenous nations of the world have also been victims of colonial, neo-colonial and imperialist aggression;
6. Considering: That our indigenous nations of the world have resisted and survived genocide and ethnocide thanks to the struggles that our people have maintained against the system of colonial and imperial oppression and domination;
7. Considering: That the United States continues to perpetuate this colonial history through its present neo-colonial policies.

8/10/18  
WGIP

Therefore:

We reject this triumphal 500 year anniversary celebration project of governments and systems which continue their projects of domination.

We denounce and condemn the flagrant violation of human rights, genocide, and ethnocide of our indigenous nations of the world.

We reject this 500 year celebration because it negates our existence, our systems of government, our cultures, and our pre-columbian and pre-colonial history.

We demand:

1. That the United Nations General Assembly declare the year 1992, "International Year of the Indigenous Nations of the World."
2. That the United Nations hold a world conference on the situations of indigenous nations in 1992.

3. That the states that oppress indigenous populations of the world should recognize and respect the self-determination of our nations before 1992.

4. That the United Nations General Assembly pass a resolution requesting the American and European governments who are organizing the 500 year anniversary to use the multimillions they have allocated for this celebration for humanitarian, social, economic and cultural benefits.

5. That the Vatican and all organized Christian religions recognize their complicity in the destruction of some of the indigenous nations of the world and respect the specific religion of each indigenous nation.

6. That the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the United Nations intensify its consultation with the grass-roots indigenous organizations in order to promulgate the declaration of principles on the fundamental rights of indigenous nations.

7. That the United Nations General Assembly approve the declaration of principles on the fundamental rights of indigenous nations before 1992.

A call:

To all international, regional, and national indigenous organizations of the world to support, intensify and coordinate activities related to the "500 year anniversary of the invasion of America" in order to register the demands made herein.