



Black Hills Teton Sioux Nation

MEMBER RESERVATIONS

Pine Ridge
Lower Brule
Cheyenne River
Standing Rock
Rosebud
Fort Peck
Crow Creek
Santee
Canadian Sioux

INTERVENTION AT THE XIth WORKING GROUP ON INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS Geneva, Switzerland

Made by Antoine (Tony) Black Feather on behalf of the
TETON SIOUX NATION TREATY COUNCIL
July 21, 1993

Commission on Human Rights
Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination
and Protection of Minorities

SUBJECT: Declaration of Independence with Full Sovereignty and
Restitution of Aboriginal Lands with Punitive Damages
ATTN: Professor Miguel Alfonso Martínez
Special Rapporteur, Working Group on Indigenous Populations

Honorable Madame Daes, We thank you for this opportunity. I am Antoine (Tony) Black Feather, Spokesman for the Teton Sioux Nation Treaty Council of the Lakota Nation under the Fort Laramie Treaty of April 29, 1868.

Madame Daes, The world now faces a critical time. For far too many centuries the voices of the original peoples of territories around the world, the Indigenous peoples of the world, have been ignored and violently silenced. This critical abuse of human rights must be corrected if we are to return to a world in which all people, the Earth and her gifts are to live in a natural state of harmony with respect for every living thing.

Madame Daes, The Teton Sioux Nation Treaty Council has, since 1894 under our original leader, Chief He Dog, sought justice for the full-blood, traditional people of the Lakota Nation. Our struggle has simply been for recognition and respect of our legally established sovereignty. The sovereignty of our Nation is the inherent right of our traditional people and, despite allocation, termination, relocation, environmental contamination and the imposition of colonial government, it has not been surrendered or nullified.

The fight for our survival as a Nation and a race of people has been exhausted through the systems established by the United States government including the Court of Claims, the Indian Claims Commission, the Appellate Court, the United States Supreme Court and the Congress. This system and it's political language is designed to make lies sound truthful and genocide

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acceptable. They will not hear our case for recognition of our sovereignty and respect for our borders.

Madame Daes, The United Nations, the Commission for Human Rights and the Working Group for Indigenous Populations is our last appeal for justice. We trust in the words of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the General Assembly on December 10, 1948, which in its first paragraph states that "recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world." These words represent, for traditional, full-blooded Lakota people, the natural laws of the Creator and a world in which we all live in accordance with their meaning is our goal.

Madame Daes, Therefore we, the full-blooded, traditional Lakota people of the Teton Sioux Nation Treaty Council can only accept a resolution by this body which fully acknowledges the human rights of our people for complete ~~sovereignty in government, religion, language, and society.~~ For too long an imperialistic system designed to diminish our rights to life, livelihood and self-respect, in violation of treaty agreements has subjected our people to starvation, chemical warfare, disease and poverty.

Madame Daes, In support of this appeal, we are providing this Assembly with testimony and documentation. This evidence is submitted in recognition of our rights under international law and the Natural Laws of the Creator. We respectfully request the support of our brothers and sisters gathered here at the Working Group on Indigenous Populations in enforcing the legitimate treaties between the Teton Sioux Nation and the United States and urge this Assembly to adopt the text of Operative Paragraph 34.

Finally, Madame Daes, we would like to cordially invite you and Professor Miguel Alfonso Martínez to visit the people of the Teton Sioux Nation Treaty Council in our traditional territories at Pine Ridge and Cheyenne River. Madame Daes, Here's hoping with a prayer, this meeting will open up good communications for recognition to fulfill the Natural Laws of the Great Spirit and reality for the dreams of mankind. Thank you,

With Honor and Respect, we are, The Teton Sioux Nation Treaty Council



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