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MT. 'Arafat Embassy "Clan" Yamassee Native Americans, Original Cherokee, Seminole, Creek, Shushuni, Washitaw "Mound Builders,"

Grand Chief Black Hawk





From: Beaver J. P. Ladson, Ambassador at Large

To: The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Sixth Session, 2007

Reference: Urban Indigenous Peoples and Migration.

We send Spiritual Blessings to Madame Chair, and to all of our Brothers and Sisters attending the sixth session of the Permanent Forum of Indigenous Peoples. Grand Chief Black Hawk and his wife Chief Red Fox, Prime Minister Chief Red Tail Hawk and Spiritual Adviser Archbishop John Milton Isaac Brown III, PhD, all express their good wishes for the continuing work of the Forum.

As Ambassador at Large for the Mt. Arafat Embassy "Clan" Yamassee Native Americans, the Official Custodian of the Yamassee Native American Government, we offer our insight and experience as "Urban Indigenous Peoples" domiciled in the United States of America (USA). It is too often the case that "Urban Indigenous Peoples" who find themselves in the midst "First Power Nations" are left out of the mainstream of beneficial elements of "Modern Developed Countries". Today, the clear and unavoidable truth is that we both need to share the benefits of what the other has to offer without the Indigenous Peoples having to relinquish Cultural and Intellectual participation.

Free, prior and informed consent of the Indigenous Peoples affected by modern changes is a recognized goal. We are in full agreement with and support the expert recommendations made arising out of the joint International Organization for Migration/Permanent Forum secretariat Expert Workshop on Indigenous Peoples and Migration (April 2006) with respect to Indigenous Peoples lands, and I quote: "The expert recommended that Indigenous Peoples should, in order to avoid migration or displacement, have input on policies and projects that might affect their lands. Also the experts recommended that States be aware of development plans that might lead to the forcible displacement of indigenous communities via encroachment by extractive industries on indigenous lands."

We, the Yamassee Native American Indigenous, offer to add an insight of the negative effects of what we have called, "Humanitarian Dictatorship." This common practice has existed for years and is well intended by those who desire to effect positive change for a particular cause or malady, such as preserving wildlife by creating a Wildlife Reserve. However, they have done so without any input from the Indigenous Peoples who used

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those very lands as their traditional hunting ground. For example, reports were given at a breakout forum session in 2006 by Masai of Kenya who were being arrested for "poaching" on their own traditional lands that have become a well-intended Wildlife Reserve without their input whatsoever!

The Yamassee are in process of repurchasing a small parcel of land, just 26 acres, within our traditional land holdings before forced migration removed indications of our rights to such lands. Returning to and/or reclaiming traditional lands lost continues to be an area of difficulty for many "Urban Indigenous Peoples."

We are an Ancient and Noble People who honor and practice Harmony and Balance with Mother Earth. We offer our participation toward solutions for "Urban Indigenous Peoples" and the "First Power Nations." We can accomplish the best results by acknowledging the historical facts in truth then, amalgamate the positive benefits that can result from shared stakeholders' joint ventures for both Indigenous and "First Power Nations."

Our challenges are "Human ones." It takes "Real Human Beings" to help solve our challenges together.

Peace.

Beaver J. P. Ladson

Ambassador at Large

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