



International Indian Treaty Council
Consejo Internacional de Tratados Indios

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INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL
34th ANNUAL CONFERENCE, CHIMALTENANGO, GUATEMALA
June 19 to 22, 2008

Resolution on economic justice, fair trade and economic self determination for Indigenous Peoples; the effects of “free trade” and migration and workers’ rights

The 275 delegates registered at this conference, representing several Indigenous Peoples of North, South and Central America, the Caribbean and the Pacific, adopt the following resolution by consensus in defense of the rights of the Indigenous Peoples:

The International Indian Treaty Council hereby resolves to establish the theme of migration as a fundamental, cross-cutting issue that profoundly affects Indigenous Peoples’ Cultural, Economic, Social, Civil, and Political rights.

The International Indian Treaty Council reaffirms that we categorically reject NAFTA, CAFTA, PLAN PUEBLA PANAMA, PLAN COLOMBIA and other free trade agreements that violate rights over lands, territories, and natural resources and violate Indigenous Peoples’ Treaty rights. These agreements destroy the environment and local economies, resulting in extreme poverty and economic injustice, which are the cause of the massive displacement of indigenous communities to other territories of the American continent; and

The International Indian Treaty Council continues to oppose all MEGAPROJECTS, such as the construction of hydroelectric projects, that displace Indigenous communities from their lands and territories, adversely affecting the totality the Biodiversity of the Indigenous Peoples of Meso-America; and

The International Indian Treaty Council also resolves that it will raise awareness on a national and international level regarding the issue of migration, especially as it affects Indigenous Peoples; and

The International Indian Treaty Council insists that the United States and other countries will respect and observe the rights of indigenous migrants to maintain, conserve, and develop their identity, language, culture, and worldview in the territories to which they migrate; and

The International Indian Treaty Council calls for a moratorium by the United States and other countries on the raids and the mass deportations to which Indigenous Peoples are subjected in such operations; and

The International Indian Treaty Council resolves to form a committee of indigenous organizations, including the IITC, and, with advise from indigenous migrants, that it shall initiate a dialogue with the Tohono O’odham Nation and other Indigenous nations affected by policies

and actions related to migration. In addition, it shall continue building work in solidarity to confront abuses, racism, and violations of the human rights committed by the United States government against migrant Indigenous Peoples or Indigenous Peoples whose lands are divided by borders; and

The International Indian Treaty Council resolves that it shall contribute to the efforts to monitor and document the activities and policies of the border patrol and other agencies of the United States involved in these cases; and

The International Indian Treaty Council resolves to act in solidarity with the Apache Basque Nation, who are opposed to the construction of the BORDER WALL in defense of their ancestral territories and in solidarity with their brothers and sisters of the south; and

The International Indian Treaty Council resolves to act in solidarity with those arrested in the recent raids conducted by the immigration authorities in Postville, Iowa, where most of those arrested were indigenous peoples of Guatemala, whose right to work has been criminalized; and

The International Indian Treaty Council resolves that it shall collect the testimonies of violations and abuses of the human rights of Indigenous migrants, including abuses against women and children, and shall present and denounce these violations before regional and international human rights entities; and

The International Indian Treaty Council resolves that it categorically opposes the law creating the National Council of Migrants of Guatemala (CONAMIGUA) that went into effect on November 16, 2007, which works against a just and dignified migration agreement for indigenous migrants; and

The International Indian Treaty Council resolves that it condemns the recent law approved by the European Parliament, because it violates the human rights of migrants and because it fails to recognize the responsibility that those same European countries have in contributing to the economic and environmental conditions that are the cause of the forced migration of peoples in several regions of the world; and

The International Indian Treaty Council resolves calls upon the States in which migrants are living to respect the rights of migrant youth and children, since they are the most vulnerable to this situation; and

Finally, the International Indian Treaty Council resolves that it supports and reaffirms the resolutions adopted at the Second Border Summit of Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, held in San Xavier, ARIZONA in November 2007, regarding migration issues and the rights of Indigenous Peoples divided by international borders.

Adopted by consensus, Chimaltenango, June 22, 2008