

**INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL
30th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE
AJUMAWI TERRITORY, FALLS RIVER MILLS, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
July 8 – 11, 2004**

Resolution on Prisoners' Rights

Whereas; the reaffirmation to further protect the free exercise of religious and spiritual practices by Native persons and other Indigenous persons, as a fundamental human right and an important aspect of rehabilitation of the Native prisoners who will be returning to their respective communities upon release; and,

Whereas; Native and Indigenous children of incarcerated parents have rights including: to be kept safe and informed at the time of parents' arrest; the right to be heard from and considered when decisions are made about them and about their parents; the right to be well cared for in their parents' absence; the right to speak with, see and touch their parent; and the right to a life long relationship with the parent; and,

Whereas; cultural awareness and cultural sensitivity training should be mandatory and facilitated by Native spiritual leaders and Indigenous programs should be designed and conducted for Native prisoners by Native leaders recognized by Indigenous communities; and,

Whereas; The Native and Indigenous prisoners should be treated humanely, and given appropriate and adequate medical and health care; and,

Whereas; The Native and Indigenous prisoners should be provided with competent legal representation, equal access to due process of rights, and justice in a timely and just matter; and,

Whereas; It be applicably respected by prison officials hereafter that spiritual and cultural programs designed by and for Indigenous peoples are the most important hope and positive therapy for the healing, revitalization and rehabilitation of Indigenous prisoners, and through the development and implementation of such programs can the healing and recover process begin; and,

Whereas; The International Indian Treaty Council requests the Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Commission of Human Rights reviews and investigates the human rights violations regarding the denial of traditional worship in the United States prison system; and,

Now therefore be resolved that the International Indian Treaty Council does hereby recognize the urgent need to protect and preserve the inherent spiritual and cultural rights and afford equal protection and due process of the law; urges and requests the United Nations Commission and Human Rights to recommend that the United States prison

system enforce and comply with existing laws, statutes, and policies for the free exercise of spiritual practices by Indigenous prisoners; and

Be it further resolved that the Indigenous Indian Treaty Council will continue to support ongoing efforts by The Special Rapporteur for Religious Freedom of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to investigate human rights violations including violations of freedom of religion and worship; and

Be it finally resolved, that this resolution shall be the policy of the International Indian Treaty Council.

Adopted by consensus at the 30th Anniversary International Indian Treaty Council Conference, July 11, 2004, hosted by Iss Ahwi peoples (Pit River Indian Nation) Ajumawi Territory, Falls River Mills, California.