



INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL
42th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE
Pu'uhonua Village, Waimanalo, Oahu Hawaii
SEPTEMBER 9TH – 11TH, 2016
Resolution on Human Rights Defenders

The delegates at this conference representing Indigenous Peoples from North, Central, and South America, the Arctic, Caribbean and the Pacific, adopt by consensus the following resolution to defend the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:

1. We affirm the IITC “Resolutions on Treaties and implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other International Human Rights Standards” and the ‘Resolution on Rights of Indigenous Women and Children’, adopted at the 40th Anniversary Treaty Conference in Okemah Oklahoma in 2014;
2. We recall the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and affirm that it is the minimum standard of rights of Indigenous Peoples in accordance with Article 43;
3. We also recalls the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and all United Nations Human Rights Treaties;
4. We reaffirm these and other international human rights standards and the UN Special Procedures monitoring their implementation by States including the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights defenders, as well as UN Treaty Monitoring Bodies and other international human rights mechanisms;
5. We affirm Indigenous Peoples’ right to self-determination, Indigenous laws, protocols and knowledge, and affirms our collective responsibilities to protect Mother Earth and each other;
6. We, the delegates of International Indian Treaty Council 42nd Anniversary Conference commit to uplift peace and raise up Indigenous Human, Treaty and Environmental Rights Defenders including Elders, Men, Women, Youth and Children, who are exercising their collective rights as Indigenous Peoples to promote or protect these rights and/or to defend Mother Earth, and agree to the following in order to carry out this commitment:
7. IITC will bring forth and condemn the violations of the rights of Indigenous Human, Treaty and Environmental Rights Defenders including but not limited to: killings; death threats; kidnappings; beatings; torture; arbitrary arrest and detention; attacks; rapes and sexual violence; burglary and unauthorized searches; criminal or other charges; prosecution and convictions; harassment; defamation; policies legislation and procedures described as “security measures”; desecration or destruction of lands, waters, animals, and other living beings; obstruction of Indigenous governance or organizational operations; laws preventing freedom of expression, association and movement; lack of access to justice and remedy; and continued impunity for those committing such violations;

8. IITC will continue to condemn in particular the criminalization and persecution of Indigenous Human, Treaty and Environmental Rights Defenders through State and corporate use of criminal laws, including anti-terrorism/counter-terrorism laws, against Indigenous Human, Treaty and Environmental Rights Defenders;
9. IITC will continue to condemn the critical situation of the ongoing desecration of Mother Earth including fracking, mining and other extractive industries, hydro developments, deforestation, industrial agriculture, pesticide and toxic use transportation and disposal, toxic contamination and climate change, and emphasizes that such ongoing desecration of Mother Earth has led directly to violations of the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples;
10. IITC will actively affirm the fundamental rights of Human, Treaty and Environmental Rights Defenders as protectors, including the right to protest as a means of defending their Peoples and Mother Earth. IITC will continue to denounce the legal, political and policy responses of States and corporations that contribute or lead to violations of Indigenous Peoples' rights, continued impunity for violators and desecration of Mother Earth, often in violation of existing international, regional and national laws and standards and Nation-to-Nation Treaties and Treaty rights;
11. IITC will continue to denounce the ongoing disregard by States of observations and recommendations of United Nations Treaty Monitoring Bodies, Special Procedures, International court rulings and other judicial considerations, and other International or regional mechanisms regarding the rights of Indigenous Peoples;
12. IITC will continue and strengthen its support for Indigenous Human, Treaty and Environmental Rights Defenders within international processes, included providing access, communications and follow up to United Nations Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures and related human rights and Indigenous Rights mechanisms;
13. In particular, IITC will continue to ensure immediate and timely responses to requests from Indigenous Peoples, IITC Affiliates and others as appropriate regarding cases of violations of the rights of Indigenous Human, Treaty and Environmental Rights Defenders;
14. IITC will broaden and enhance solidarity amongst all affiliates of IITC and will also build public awareness education and support on the situation of Indigenous Human, Treaty and Environmental Rights Defenders through concrete actions such as initiating letter writing campaigns or similar initiatives as appropriate;
15. IITC will carry out trainings with and amongst all IITC affiliates regarding the situation of Indigenous Human, Treaty and Environmental Rights Defenders, including "training trainers" to build capacity to address this vital issue;
16. IITC will promote and integrate protection of Indigenous Human, Treaty and Environmental Rights Defenders into all program areas and work, and will raise up the issue within the UN system, including in multilateral environmental agreements, business and human rights with particular emphasis on the duty to protect, the duty to respect and access to remedy; and as appropriate, the negotiation of the new UN Treaty on transnational corporations and human rights further to Human Rights Council Resolution 26/9;
17. Finally, IITC reiterates the call for the United States of America Obama Administration to grant executive clemency for Leonard Peltier.

***Adopted by consensus on September 11th 2016,
Waimanalo, Hawaii***

