



WE HOLD THE ROCK [ALCATRAZ], SAID RICHARD OAKES OF AKWESASNE IN 1969

MNN. July 5, 2009. No Canadian or US government officials are talking to us. The guards and workers in the two checkpoints in Akwesasne have abandoned their posts since June 1, 2009. We can come and go off the island to the north. We can go off to the south but can't come back. Our ancestors invoked some basic principles for us to use in such times.

The federally run prison on Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay had been abandoned in 1963. In 1964 a small group of Lakota attempted to take the Island to invoke a principle in the 1868 Treaty of Laramie. All surplus abandoned federal land automatically reverts to the Indigenous nations.

On November 20, 1969 Richard Oakes of Akwesasne lead Indigenous People onto Alcatraz Island and held it until 1971. It was to prove a basic point. This event changed the relationship between Indigenous and the US government. Up to then it was negotiation, compromise and legal remedies forced down our throats by the government.

The Alcatraz Proclamation was signed, "In the name of all Indians ... we reclaim this island for our Indian Nations". Other abandoned federal facilities were reclaimed afterwards.

The US government knowing this principle was furious that the Indigenous would have the audacity to invoke it. This act focused the entire world upon this basic law. The US government was put on the spot. It could no longer be hidden in the dusty archives of the Bureau of Indian Affairs basement. In 1971 Richard Oakes was assassinated.

The Mohawks of Akwesasne have always asserted our rights for the world to know. The current Cornwall Island event reveals the nature of the relationship between the Mohawks and the US and Canadian governments. The Canadian government knows we can assert our rights over the abandoned buildings in the community, the highway and bridges that go through our sovereign land.

We can invoke the Great Law of Peace which all Indigenous people adhere to. We are one people by covenant.

The checkpoints have been abandoned because we won't let their guards carry guns. We have not been violent in any way.

According to the principle, the abandoned US border checkpoint at Akwesasne irrevocably reverts to the Mohawk Nation.

The Canadian Twilight Zone check point in the middle of Kawenoke on Cornwall Island was abandoned and irrevocably reverts to the Mohawk Nation.

The two bridges and highways onto the island are closed/abandoned by the US and Canada. They irrevocably revert to the Mohawk Nation.

The RCMP and other foreign police who patrol the foot of the bridge in the city of Cornwall are trespassers. This is disputed Mohawk land. They must leave.

None of these structures cannot be torn down because they now irrevocably belong to the Mohawk Nation. You build anything on our land, it's ours.

The US checkpoint and bridge are patrolled by US Border Security Field Operations and a Mohawk Policeman. US Border Security is trespassing and must leave.

We can traverse the whole community of Akwesasne as one entity without borders. It was illegally divided by the US, Canadian and British governments into five jurisdictions – Ontario, Quebec, New York State, US and Canada. They legislated two separate councils, tribal and band, to divide us with their imaginary boundary line.

The outsiders cannot establish the perimeter of our territory to limit us to small areas of our vast Haudenosaunee territory. It is our right to decide who will cross the two bridges and enter our community and our territories.

The Mohawk elders and people made the initial demand for no guns in the hands of foreigners in our midst. Both US and Canadian band and tribal councils stood together and made demands on behalf of the sovereign Mohawk people.

The Akwesasne people took the initiative. This is an Iroquois Confederacy issue. It affects all Ongwehonwe, our friends and allies at the Canada- US and US-Mexico borders which were never meant for us. The visitors cannot apply their line to us.

Rumors has it that US and Canada might build a new bridge several miles west of Akwesasne. This is part of Haudenosaunee Territory. They have to consult us and get our permission. They think they stole this land outright. No so! Most people in the world know that Great Turtle Island is ours. They cannot show any evidence that they've legally acquired any of our land. International law was violated by the US and Canada when they made laws to claim our land and resources.

Arrangements to speak with us must be made through the Governor General and US President. Mike Mitchell, the tribal and band councils do not speak for us. Under the Great Law, they have don't speak for the Iroquois Confederacy or Mohawk Nation. Anything they decide is not valid because they represent the foreign US and Canadian jurisdictions. Our people sit under the tent at the crossroads at Kawenoke and patiently wait for them to come and make valid and legal arrangements with us.

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GIVE-AND-TAKE' ON GUNS IN AKWESASNE - Video link

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nUeNtM6qakk>

MNN. July 4, 2009. According to Mike Mitchell, the new band councilor, we hope he doesn't mean that the Indigenous give and the colonists take! He has announced a give-and-take style negotiation with Canada. The armed border guards want to come into Akwesasne in exchange for something. He suggests the Canada Border Services agents CBSA could give by taking some cultural sensitivity training. If they become sensitive to us, our laws and our rights, they will get off the island and never come back. The colony of Canada has no legal business manning their store in the middle of our community.

The Canada and US ultimatum is that they are going to keep the two bridges onto Kawenoke on Cornwall Island closed until we let them come in with guns. As a band councilor, Mitchell has been a longtime anti-Confederacy sovereignty advocate. He seems willing to compromise the Mohawk nation position.

Mitchell wants to make it look like he settled our valid complaint and come out looking like the hero. Some of the human rights complaints will be settled, he said. He wants to make the economically dying cities of Cornwall Ontario and Massena New York happy.

Any deal Mitchell makes will only apply to those 350 people who voted for him, who obviously support the colonial band council system and their goal to undermine us. They are trying to set a precedent for outsiders to patrol other Indigenous communities.

This is a nation-to-nation issue. Canada and US both know that this is a Rotino'shonni:onwe movement based on our sovereignty, which is supported by international law. A majority have to give our fully informed consent which we will never.

Watch the following short video linked to this article. You can see how happy Mohawks feel about being free of the abuse and brutality of the border guards!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nUeNtM6qakk>

There is talk of putting a temporary Canadian customs on the Cornwall Ontario side at the foot of the Bridge. This hasn't been brought to the Mohawks. At least the Canadian government recognizes they can't put guns on the island in the middle of Kawenoke.

Not mentioned is that this too is Mohawk territory which is under dispute. The Mohawks have given the message that we are not going to be intimidated. This is being acknowledged by the non-native community. They now know that we cannot be pushed around anymore.

We must give credit to Dooley Thompson, the former chief, and his supporters, for standing up for the people forcefully and eloquently. Hopefully Mike Mitchell learns

from his predecessor that the non-natives can't walk over us. We are in the right. We don't want guns like the others. We have to take a stand and stay with it. The cutting off of traffic to Kawenoke has allowed us to feel relieved from the years of intimidation. It's a vacation from the abuse that has been going on for a long time.

The Mohawks message to the world is that tyranny has to be resisted. With the move towards global totalitarianism by the few elite thugs and their military goons, the Mohawks, our brothers, sisters, friends, allies and supporters are showing everybody how to defend themselves without using violence. Only the truth!

The Akwesasne Women's Fire remains in good spirits and smiling a lot when the Peace Caravan arrived. The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe on behalf of their bosses, Canada and US, tried to sidetrack the public into thinking they weren't welcome. We sent out a message inviting the public to join us.

For updates and to donate online, go to the www.akwesasnewomensfire.com . Urgently needed are life jackets and fuel for the boats. Your help is appreciated for food, canned goods, general supplies, non-perishable food, flashlights and batteries, lanterns, coal oil lamps, bug spray or zapper and regular toiletries. Please send donations by check or money order to: Akwesasne Womens Fire, 936 Island Rd, Akwesasne ON K6H 5R7

For further information please contact: Rosemarie White 613-933-8784; Veronica Cook; 915-886-0210; Neddy Thompson 613-577-4647; and Nona Benedict 613-938-8145 (h) nonabena@yahoo.com

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UPDATE/VIDEO: AKWESASNE WOMENS FIRE NEEDS HELP TO STOP GUNS
MNN. July 1, 2009. On Monday June 1st 2009 the Canadian Border Service Agency was to take up arms at the border crossing in the middle of Akwesasne of Mohawk Nation Territory. The people protested. At 11:30 pm on May 31st the CBSA guards abandoned their post and left. Since then, we have peacefully camped on the grounds next to the facility. This is the first video on the ongoing events in the camp and the people.

<http://www.youtube.com:80/watch?v=cQQNz0FKCKI>

No band councilors showed up. They have been intimidated by the government, are afraid and caved in. It's a powerful grassroots Peoples movement with no support from any government.

NEEDED: Funds would be greatly appreciated to keep up our tents: Please go to www.akwesasnewomensfire.com and donate online. For donations by check or money order please send to: Akwesasne Womens Fire, 936 Island Rd, Akwesasne ON K6H 5R7

Urgently needed are life jackets for the crossings and fuel for the boats. Your donations are appreciated of food, can goods, general supplies, non-perishable food, flashlights and batteries, lanterns, coal oil lamps, bug spray or zapper, regular toiletries – toilet paper, paper towels, soap, laundry, etc.

For further information please contact: Rosemarie White 613-933-8784; Veronica Cook; 915-886-0210; Neddy Thompson 613-577-4647; and Nona Benedict 613-551-5421 (c) 613-938-8145 (h) nonabena@yahoo.com

The caravan was greeted by an emotional welcoming ceremony and social. The people were overwhelmed by the sight of the caravan approaching over the International Bridge onto Kawenoke on Cornwall Island. We will keep it peaceful. The Customs Building is being maintained. Please send your messages of support to nonabena@yahoo.com

Please keep supporting us. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is coming to bring supplies and to meet the people.

Two Indigenous men hitchhiked from Vancouver. Jayson Fleury said that we are being eliminated by guns. We came to support our brothers and sisters to stop the genocide of our people. His sister ended up as one of Picton's victims on the farm where dozens of our women were murdered. We will never accept outsiders carrying guns in their midst.

Old videos of gunfire 20 years ago are being used as part of the training of the CBSA that work on the island, completely ignoring the peace that has since prevailed. They probably watch old films where a cowboy shoots one bullet and knocks a whole tribe off their horses. The blue-eyed fat Indians with Brooklyn accents were played by Italians and others. Prejudice is being promoted by showing these kind of old movies to scare the CBSA.

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