



International Indian Treaty Council
Consejo Internacional de Tratados Indios

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Agenda Item 3: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, 28 June 2021

Intervention by the International Indian Treaty Council, presented by Summer Blaze Aubrey

Thank you for providing this platform.

The missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls crisis is nuanced and comes in many forms. Environmental violence, forced sterilization, conflicting jurisdictions, racial discrimination, strategies to silence human rights defenders, strategies to forcibly remove Indigenous peoples from their homelands, international borders and sex trafficking are all causes or egregious contributing factors.

Indigenous women in the U.S. face complex jurisdictional requirements that come as a result simply because of their status as Indigenous women. As a result, there is a gap in prosecution and often it is up to the federal government to prosecute those crimes; however, those crimes have more than a 90% prosecutorial declination rate at the federal level.

Indigenous women in Latin America and other regions face extractive industry or agri-businesses that come into their territories and use violence against Indigenous women as a weapon to push entire communities from their land for imposed development.

In México, the killing of women or *femicidios* are at an all-time high. Reportedly, the State is entangled with cartels and works to silence women and families that speak out. There is a media blackout on the crisis and reportedly the State has a vested interest in the blackout. México also released a widely criticized series of public service ads about preventing domestic violence. For example, one ad depicted typical glimpses of life in a household. As stress and tension built between family members, the ad advised people to count to ten to calm down and “take out the white flag of peace.” Then depicted the family members smiling and waving small white flags. The ad campaign is disconnected from reality and poses no real solution to the crisis.

These accounts are not isolated incidents, and it is vital that the Special Rapporteur on violence against women works with Indigenous peoples to bring States into compliance with international human rights standards.

Wado (Thank you).