

AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT

OF COLORADO

Contact: 303-832-2544



INTERNATIONAL CALL TO ALLIES TO END COLUMBUS DAY RACISM

September, 2005

One hundred years ago this year, the state of Colorado became the first state of the United States to declare an official holiday to the slave-trading, Indian killer, Christopher Columbus. Since that time, numerous states and the United States government have elevated Columbus to national hero status.

Under Columbus' administration in the Caribbean, millions of indigenous people were killed. Columbus began the genocidal policies that led to a hemispheric population collapse for indigenous peoples of 93-99%.

In the birthplace of the disgraceful Columbus Day holiday, Colorado AIM calls on people of conscience around the world to stand in solidarity with us in removing the destructive, colonial legacy of Columbus.

From communities in the U.S., we ask people of good will to take the following actions:

1. On the weekend of October 7-9, organize actions in your own communities or states to educate the public about the true nature of Columbus and the Columbus legacy (visit the Transform Columbus Day website for supporting materials: www.transformcolumbusday.org).
2. Demand the repeal of Columbus Day as a local, state and national holiday. This can be done through petitions, group lobbying efforts at state legislatures and visits to the office of U.S. senators and representatives. Insist on the unnamng of public places and streets to Columbus and work to remove statues and monuments to Columbus.
3. Work to ensure that the United States live up to its treaty obligation with indigenous nations, and that the federal and state governments cease the continuing theft of indigenous territories and natural resources of such places as Newe Sogobia (Western Shoshone), the He Sapa (Lakota Nation) and in Alaska (Gwich'in Nation) (see TCD website for more information on these struggles). Demand a new trial for Leonard Peltier.
4. Form alliances with local or regional indigenous peoples who are engaged in active struggle against colonialism and genocide (contact Colorado AIM or TCD for contacts in your region).
5. Never surrender to oppression, colonialism or genocide.

From our international allies, we call on you to take the following actions:

1. Organize local, national or regional rallies at U.S. consulates or embassies on Saturday, October 8th or Monday, October 10th (the official national Columbus holiday in the U.S.).
2. At these rallies, ask why the United States condones a national celebration to Columbus – an international colonial murderer. Send delegations to demand responses from U.S. officials about how the United States can claim to champion human rights, and at the same time, celebrate the man who began the genocide against indigenous peoples in the Americas.
3. Express solidarity with indigenous peoples struggles in the U.S. and around the world. Demand that the U.S. honor its treaty obligations in the Black Hills, at Western Shoshone, freedom for Leonard Peltier. Oppose policies of globalization from the U.S. that adversely effect indigenous peoples in Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru, Brazil, throughout the Pacific, Asia and Africa.
4. Form solidarity groups with indigenous peoples in struggle (see #3 above).

For all allies who answer this call, please email us reports of your actions, so that we may post them on our website—and so that we can facilitate greater communication and cooperation around these issues.

www.coloradoaim.org

denveraim@coloradoaim.org

www.transformcolumbusday.org