

THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON GLOBALIZATION  
& TEBTEBBA FOUNDATION



TEACH-IN  
**Indigenous Peoples' Resistance  
to Economic Globalization**  
A Celebration of Indigenous Sovereignty:  
Victories, Rights & Cultures

Saturday, November 18, 2006

**SPEAKER BIOS AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**JEANNETTE ARMSTRONG**

**En'owkin Centre**

**Penticton, British Columbia**

**Canada**

**Website:** <http://enowkin.tripod.com>

Jeannette Armstrong is from the Okanagan Nation and is the executive director of the En'owkin Centre – a post-secondary accredited indigenous language and culture school on Okanagan Nation lands in British Columbia. She is a well-known author and is the recipient of the prestigious Buffet Award (2003) for Indigenous Leadership. The grandniece of Hum-Ishu-Ma (Mourning Dove) who is widely regarded as the first Native American woman novelist, Jeannette is an award-winning writer, teacher, sculptor and activist. She speaks both fluent Okanagan and English and she received a traditional education from Okanagan elders and her family. She has raised her own two children on the Penticton Indian reserve. In 1986 Jeannette became the director of the En'owkin Centre in Penticton and is also the first director of the En'owkin International School of Writing — a creative-writing school organized by and for Native people that grants diplomas through the University of Victoria. Jeannette writes poetry, fiction, essays and children's literature. She also continues to make visual art and teaches creative writing and performance. The importance of music and poetry is reflected in the recent production of her poem/song "Grandmothers" on the compact disk Word Up! She has been invited to speak to all over the world at numerous international conferences and fora on native and environmental issues including native education and indigenous rights.

**BEVERLY BELL**

**Other Worlds Are Possible**

**Albuquerque, New Mexico**

Beverly Bell has worked for more than 25 years as a writer, advocate, and organizer in collaboration with economic and social justice movements in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, and the United States. Her work has focused on human rights, indigenous rights, democratic participation, just economies and gender justice. Beverly is currently

coordinating the Other Worlds Are Possible (OWAP) collaborative, a multi-national, multi-lingual, multi-media program. OWAP documents and broadly educates on the many thriving alternatives to neoliberalism around the world, so as to generate support for the efforts and to inspire similar initiatives in the U.S.

**CACIQUE VILSON BENEDITO DE OLIVERIA**

**Tupinikim/Guaraní Commission**

**Chief of Caieiras Velhas**

**Brazil**

Vilson Benedito de Oliveria (*Tupinikim*) is cacique (chief) of the village of Caieiras Velhas in Brazil and is a member of the Tupinikim/Guarani Commission. The Tupinikim people are from the coastal area between the cities of Rio de Janeiro and Salvador in Brazil. Chief De Oliveria was chosen to participate in today's Teach-In by a special commission of the Tupinikim and Guarani peoples. The Tupinikim/Guarani Commission is jointly fighting for the return of their lands from the Brazil-based global pulp and paper corporation, Aracruz Celulose. Although Aracruz is currently listed on the Dow Jones Sustainability Index and has some of its tree plantations certified as sustainable by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), the company has alleged that Chief de Oliveria and his people are not "real Indians." Aracruz uses this claim to assert that the Tupinikim are therefore undeserving of the return of more than 25,000 acres controlled by the company even though the same lands have been identified by the Brazilian government as demarcated indigenous land.

With Brazil's Ministry of Justice soon to decide the case, European groups supporting the Tupinikim are stepping up pressure on Aracruz, while the case has gone almost totally unnoticed in North America.

**GARY BROUSE**

**Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility**

**New York, New York**

**Web: <http://www.iccr.org>**

Gary Brouse is director of two programs — Corporate Governance and Militarism and Violence in Our Society — as part of his work with the American Indigenous Coalition on Institutional Accountability and the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility. He is one of the foremost experts on corporate-indigenous relationships.

**JOAN CARLING**

**The Cordillera Peoples Alliance**

**Baguio City**

**The Philippines**

**Website: <http://www.cpaphils.org>**

Joan Carling (*Kankanaey*), is the chairperson of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance. She completed high school in Baguio where she later enrolled in the University of the Philippines (UP) College for Sociology and Economics. She has been a human rights activist in Kalinga, championing the Chico Dam issue, a project that would inundate the lands in Bontoc, Kalinga and Apayao provinces in the Cordillera ranges. She is currently campaigning against the San Roque Dam and mining projects in the Cordillera region in the Philippines.

**ELOUISE COBELL****Blackfeet Reservation Development Fund****Browning, Montana****Website: <http://www.blackfeetwbc.org/blackfeetfund.html>**

Elouise Cobell is the executive director of the Native American Community Development Corporation, a non-profit affiliate of Native American Bank. She also served as chairperson for the Blackfeet National Bank, the first national bank located on a U.S. Indian reservation and owned by a Native American tribe. Elouise was one of the lead organizers of the bank and was instrumental in the formation of the Blackfeet Reservation Development Fund, Inc. Elouise's professional and civic experience and area of expertise includes serving as a board member for the Tides Foundation, the Northwest Area Foundation, First Interstate Bank, the Montana Community Foundation, and as a trustee of the National Museum of the American Indian — a division of the Smithsonian Institution. In addition to serving on many boards, Elouise served for thirteen years as the treasurer for the Blackfeet Indian Nation in Montana. She operates a working ranch with her husband, which produces cattle and crops and is active in local agriculture and environmental issues, founding the first Land Trust in Indian Country and serves as a trustee for the Nature Conservancy of Montana. She is a member of the Blackfeet Indian Tribe of Montana.

**MIRNA CUNNINGHAM****Center for Indigenous People's Autonomy and Development (CIPAD)****Nicaragua**

Dr. Mirna Cunningham is vice-president of the Indigenous Initiative for Peace and director of the Center for Indigenous People's Autonomy and Development (CIPAD). Trained as a surgeon and teacher, she has a master's degree in Public Health. Mirna is an indigenous Miskita and a former member of the National Assembly of Nicaragua where she also served as Minister of Health and as Governor of the North Atlantic Coast. Mirna founded (and acted as the first female chancellor of) the University of the Autonomous Regions of the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua (URACCAN) and has served as the General Secretary of the Interamerican Indigenous Institute.

**ALI EL-ISSA****Flying Eagle Woman Fund****New York, New York****USA****Website: [www.flyingeaglewomanfund.org](http://www.flyingeaglewomanfund.org)**

Ali El-Issa is the founder, president, and CEO of the New York-based Flying Eagle Woman Fund and husband of the late renowned Native American rights activist Ingrid Washinawatok in whose honor the fund was formed. In honor of Ingrid's memory, and to continue the integrity and spirit of Ingrid's work for indigenous peoples, the Flying Eagle Woman Fund commemorates, documents, and memorializes the life and works of Ingrid Washinawatok El-Issa through the publication of books, videos, and other educational activities. In addition, the Fund is developing an infrastructure that promotes the betterment of indigenous peoples throughout the world through grant-making and scholarship efforts. Ali is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Peace Development Fund and Fundacion Rigoberta Menchu Tum Fund a project of the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, and he is a non-governmental representative with Consultative Status to ECOSOC at the United Nations.

**JORGE FACHIN****Federation of the Achuar Nation of Peru (FENAP)****Peru****Website: [www.achuarperu.org](http://www.achuarperu.org)**

Jorge Fachin is a young Achuar leader and President of the Federation of the Achuar Nation of Peru (FENAP). He was born in 1975 in the Achuar community of Wijin, in the Rio Huituyaco river basin, Pastaza District, Province of Alto Amazonas, in the region of Loreto, Peru. As President of FENAP, he has contributed to the strengthening of the Achuar communities, the grassroots Achuar organizations Ati and Orach, and the binational coordinating body of the Achuar of Peru and Ecuador. He is noted for his contributions to the action and strategic document: *Plan of the Achuar, Kichwa and Urarina Peoples in Defense of Life in the Corrientes River Basin* and for his work in support of all living beings in Achuar territory, which is constituted by 1 million hectares in the Rio Pastaza river basin. At the international level, he has participated in various capacity-building workshops, presentations, and fora in the areas of human rights and protection of the environment.

**TOM B.K. GOLDTOOTH****Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN)****Bemidji, Minnesota****Website: [www.ienearth.org/](http://www.ienearth.org/)**

Tom B.K. Goldtooth is the national coordinator of the Indigenous Environmental Network, which is an alliance of Native grassroots groups and communities working on environmental issues. He has been a leader within Native social, economic and environmental justice movements for over 20 years. During the 1990s, he provided local, regional, national, and international leadership to Indigenous Tribal Nations and Native grassroots communities concerning environmental protection policies on and near Native lands. From the historic 1991 People of Color Environmental Justice Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., to the present he has been an activist, advocate, organizer and policy maker within the environmental justice movement both within Native communities and beyond. He has been involved in building coalitions and linkages between the Native community, people of color communities, and environmental and health organizations. Tom is a founding board member of the Washington Office on Environmental Justice (WOEJ); the Environmental Justice Fund Initiative; the Great Lakes Regional Indigenous Environmental Justice Advisory Council Sub-Committee on Waste Facility and Siting and has been instrumental in the creation of the Indigenous Sub-Committee at the WOEJ to address environmental justice issues impacting Tribal Nations.

**BEVERLY JACOBS****Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC)****Ottawa, Ontario****Canada****Website: [www.nwac-hq.org/index.php](http://www.nwac-hq.org/index.php)**

Beverly Jacobs is the president of the Native Women's Association of Canada. She has been working on issues affecting Aboriginal women in Canada and has successfully negotiated funding for the Sisters in Spirit Initiative. Beverly has raised awareness about missing and murdered Aboriginal women, the issues of violence against women and girls, matrimonial real property rights and Bill C-31. Currently, she is the acting chair of NACOSAR (dealing with Species at Risk). In addition, Beverly has participated in numerous international fora in order ensure that the Aboriginal Women's voice is heard at these meetings. She has extensive experience on issues affecting Aboriginal women. As an articulate student fighting against the discrimination facing Aboriginal women, as an entrepreneur running a consulting firm which tackled various issues such as Bill C-31, Residential Schools, matrimonial real property, racism, and health, including teen pregnancy and diabetes, and as a professor at various educational institutions in Ontario and Saskatchewan. She was the lead researcher and consultant for Amnesty International on their Stolen Sisters report, which highlights the racialized

and sexualized violence against Aboriginal women in Canada. Beverley is a strong traditional woman with close ties to her family and her community and has a close relationship with the Six Nations traditional chiefs and clan mothers.

### **SARAH JAMES**

**Gwich'in Steering Committee**

**Fairbanks, Alaska**

**Website: [www.gwichinsteeringcommittee.org/](http://www.gwichinsteeringcommittee.org/)**

Sarah James is a Neets'ait Gwich'in Indian from Arctic Village, Alaska, the northernmost Indian tribe in North America. Gwich'in is James's first language. She grew up traditionally, following the caribou migration. As a Gwich'in, she was born with motivation to care for her land. "Loss of the caribou would mean the end of my people, much like the loss of the buffalo resulted in the decimation of many indigenous cultures in the Great Plains over a century ago," she says. But Sarah did not choose to become a leader for the Gwich'in; that choice was made for her. For almost 20 years, Sarah quietly served her people as a community health aide, in a log cabin with no running water, and as founder of a preschool. Then, in 1988, the elders and spiritual leaders of the entire Gwich'in nation – encompassing 15 villages and several million acres of remote land in northeastern Alaska and Canada – chose her to become the public spokesperson for preserving the caribou, the land the caribou travel, and the Gwich'in culture. The Gwich'in voice is being heard. That is Sarah's central accomplishment. She has successfully inserted the previously excluded Gwich'in voice into the debate about the fate of the Alaska coastal plain.

### **Q'ORIANKA WAIRA QOIANA KILCHER**

**Indigenous Activist, Actress, and star of "The New World"**

At the age of 16, Q'orianka Kilcher has emerged into the front ranks of young actors with her portrayal of Pocahontas in *The New World*. Having started her performing arts career at age 6, she is an award winning actress and also a singer/songwriter and expert dancer. Q'orianka is a committed human rights and environmental activist who uses her voice as a tool to bring the need for universal dignity, compassion and basic human rights to the attention of the international community. She lends her voice and presents to various causes and organizations such as Amazon Watch (youth ambassador), AIDSESP (indigenous federations of the Peruvian Amazon/spokesperson), and Amnesty International (youth ambassador for women's rights). She also is the 2006 spokesperson for the American literacy campaign and is frequently invited as a keynote speaker at universities and native/non-native youth events. Q'orianka recently spoke at the United Nations on a panel discussion entitled "Indigenous Peoples: Human Rights, Dignity and Development with Identity." Q'orianka is currently producing a documentary in collaboration with Amazon Watch, highlighting the 35 year long struggle of the Achuar people of the Peruvian Amazon against multinational oil companies

### **JUDITH KIMERLING**

**CUNY School of Law**

**Flushing, New York**

**Website: <http://www.law.cuny.edu/app/index.jsp>**

Judith Kimerling is an associate professor of law and policy at The City University of New York, with a joint appointment at CUNY Law School and Queens College. After graduating from University of Michigan and Yale Law School, she worked for seven years as an environmental litigator, including five years as an assistant attorney general for New York State, where she worked on the Love Canal litigation and other hazardous waste cleanup litigation and negotiations. In 1989, Judith moved to Ecuador and worked with Indigenous organizations in the Amazon Rainforest to document the environmental and social impacts of oil development there. Her findings and photographs first placed concerns about the impact of oil production on Indigenous Peoples and the environment in tropical forests on the international environmental and human rights policy agendas. The New York Times called her book *Amazon Crude* "the

*Silent Spring* of Ecuador". In the United States, it prompted a prominent class action lawsuit, *Aguinda v. Texaco, Inc.* Judith currently serves as the international lawyer for *Makarik Ñihua*, an alliance of 28 Indigenous Huaorani and Kichwa communities who came together in the wake of the dismissal of the *Aguinda* lawsuit to speak for themselves and become protagonists in the struggle to defend their rights and remedy environmental, social and cultural injuries caused by ChevronTexaco's operations in Ecuador.

**LILY LA TORRE**  
**Racimos de Ungurahui**  
**Lima, Peru**

Lily la Torre was born in the Peruvian Amazon. She graduated with degrees in law and philosophy from the Pontifical Catholic University of Perú. Since 1985, she has been a member of the legal advisory team of the National Legal Defense Program of Amazon indigenous organizations in Perú and the Interethnic Association for Development of the Peruvian Jungle, AIDSESEP. Since 1995, as a member of the nongovernmental organization "Racimos de Ungurahui Working Group" Ms. La Torre has provided advice and training to indigenous federations at the local and national levels, mainly on legal issues related to the exploitation of natural resources of the Amazon forest by national and international companies, and the environmental and social impacts resulting from these activities on indigenous lands. As legal advisor to Achuar, Quichua, and Urarina communities of the Corrientes River Basin, she recently participated in the historic and important agreement between these communities, represented by indigenous federation FECONACO, the Peruvian government, and the Argentine oil company Pluspetrol. The agreement mandates an end to new oil contamination, clean up of existing contamination, and reparation for environmental damages.

**OREN LYONS**  
**State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo**  
**Buffalo, New York**

Oren Lyons is faithkeeper of the Turtle Clan of the Onondaga and professor in the American Studies Department, State University of New York at Buffalo. He is the publisher of *Daybreak Magazine* and co-editor of *Exiled in the Land of the Free*. His interests include Native American history, international indigenous affairs, contemporary indigenous issues, and international environmental issues. Oren has received the Ellis Island Congressional Medal of Honor, the National Audubon Award, the First Annual Earth Day International Award of the United Nations, and the Elder and Wiser Award of the Rosa Parks Institute for Human Rights, and he has been inducted into the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame. He is a member of the board of the Harvard Project on American Economic Development and chairman of the Board Honoring Contributions in the Governance of American Indian Nations. Oren is also a highly acclaimed visual artist.

**LUIS MACAS**  
**Instituto Científico de Culturas Indígenas - ICCI**  
**Quito, Ecuador**

In Ecuador, where indigenous people represent 45 percent of the population, Luis Macas, a Quichua, from the Andean highlands is a leading champion of indigenous rights. On May 28, 1990, in a carefully synchronized event, more than a million indigenous people around the country stopped working. During the general strike that followed, highways were blocked and food supplies to the capital were cut off. One of the principal architects of this peaceful uprising or *levantamiento*, Macas succeeded in opening the door to discussions between indigenous groups and the Ecuadorian government. Macas is a long-time indigenous leader, former agriculture minister of Ecuador and the first indigenous person elected to Ecuador's National Congress. Luis is founder of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (CONAIE), the country's most prominent indigenous peoples' organization. He also heads the Institute for the

Knowledge of Indigenous Culture and has served as a national deputy for the Pachakutik movement. In 2006 he ran for the presidency of Ecuador. He was the Goldman Environmental Prize Winner for South and Central America in 1994.

**LES MALEZER**

**Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action (FAIRA)**

**Woolloongabba, Queensland**

**Australia**

**Website: <http://www.faira.org.au/>**

Les Malezer is chairperson of the Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action (FAIRA) and also presides as the chairperson of the Pacific Caucus of Indigenous Peoples at various and relevant United Nations sessions. Les also plays a coordination role in the Pacific region on other matters including issues related to the Convention on Biological Diversity and is deputy chair of the National Indigenous Working Group on Native Title (NIWG).

**JERRY MANDER**

**International Forum on Globalization**

**San Francisco, California**

**Website: [www.ifg.org](http://www.ifg.org)**

Jerry Mander is founder, and board member of the IFG, senior fellow at the Public Media Center, and author or coeditor of the best-selling books *In the Absence of the Sacred: The Failure of Technology and the Survival of the Indian Nations*; *The Case Against the Global Economy and for a Turn Toward the Local* (with Edward Goldsmith); *Four Arguments for the Elimination of Television*; and *Alternatives to Economic Globalization: A Better World is Possible* (with John Cavanagh). He is also co-editor, with Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, of the recently released *Paradigm Wars: Indigenous Peoples' Resistance to Economic Globalization* (Sierra Club / University of California Press, October 2006).

**CHIEF ARTHUR MANUEL**

**Indigenous Network on Economies and Trade**

**Vancouver, British Columbia**

**Canada**

Chief Arthur Manuel is a member of the Neskonalith Band of the Secwepemc Nation in British Columbia and is spokesperson for the Indigenous Network on Economies and Trade, a network of indigenous organizations working to achieve recognition for Aboriginal and Treaty Rights at the international level. He has had three amicus curiae submissions successfully accepted at the World Trade Organization and one accepted by the North American Free Trade Agreement on Canada-U.S. softwood lumber disputes.

**MIRIAN MASAQUIZA**

**Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

**United Nations**

**New York, New York**

Mirian Masaquiza is a *Kichwa* from Ecuador. She is currently an associate social affairs officer at the United Nations Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York. Over the course of her career, her many responsibilities have included serving as a consultant for the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, DC and for the UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights. In 2003, Mirian earned an Especialista (equivalent to a master's degree) in Human Rights from the Universidad Andina Simon Bolivar in Quito, Ecuador. And, in 2001, she completed the Indigenous Fellowship Programme at the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in

Geneva, Switzerland that is a course on International Human Rights standards and mechanisms, as well as Indigenous Peoples' Rights. Previously, she was working as assistant on indigenous issues at the Confederación Nacional de Organizaciones Campesinas, Indígenas y Negras del Ecuador (FENOCIN). Mirian speaks Kichwa—her indigenous language, as well as Spanish and English.

**VICTOR MENOTTI**

**International Forum on Globalization**

**San Francisco, California**

**Website: [www.ifg.org](http://www.ifg.org)**

Victor Menotti directs the IFG's Environmental Project. He earned his degree in International Relations from UCLA, has worked in numerous international NGOs and speaks several languages. After attending the Rio Earth Summit, he traveled to South America laying the groundwork for an international citizens' network on economic integration issues. In 1993, Victor was the editorial researcher for the Earth Island Press Book, *The Case Against Free Trade*, and coordinated the Clearcut Book Project for the Foundation for Deep Ecology. He is the author of the IFG report, *Free Trade, Free Logging: How the World Trade Organization Undermines Global Forest Conservation*.

**JOHN MOHAWK**

**State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo**

**Buffalo, New York**

John Mohawk (*Seneca*) is co-director and associate professor of the American Studies Department, State University of New York at Buffalo. He is founder of the Iroquois White Corn Project, is the author of *Utopian Legacies: A History of Conquest and Oppression in the Western World*, co-editor of *Exiled in the Land of the Free*, and a contributing editor for the landmark indigenous publication: *Basic Call to Consciousness*. He served as an editor of *Akwesasne Notes* and *Daybreak Magazine*, and he currently writes a column for *Indian Country Today*. On two occasions the Native American Journalists Association has given him an award for Best Article on Historical Perspective, and his work on American Indian education issues in New York State has earned him an honorary doctorate from Hartwick College. John's interests include contemporary Iroquois issues, the life and influences of the Seneca prophet Handsome Lake, and contemporary revitalization movements worldwide.

**MELISSA NELSON**

**The Cultural Conservancy**

**San Francisco California**

**Website: [www.nativeland.org](http://www.nativeland.org)**

Since 1993 Melissa Nelson has served as the executive director and president of The Cultural Conservancy, an indigenous rights non-profit organization. She is also professor of American Indian Studies at San Francisco State University. Her current work focuses on California Indian land restoration and cultural revitalization. She is currently consulting with the Kashaya Pomo Tribe, the Southern California Tribal Chairman's Association, members of the Southern Paiute Nation, urban Indians, Tibetans, and Pacific Islanders living in the San Francisco Bay Area, and environmental groups on the West Coast. Melissa has published articles and essays in various journals such as *Orion Magazine*, *Restoration & Management Notes*, *ReVision Journal*, *Abya Yala News*, *The Trumpeter*, and *Turtle Mountain Times*. Melissa currently serves on the board of directors of the Cultural Conservancy, the Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve and the Interfaith Center at the Presidio in San Francisco. She also serves on the Community Advisory Council for the Crissy Field Center in the Presidio National Park. Ms. Nelson is on the editorial board of *ReVision, A Journal of Consciousness and Transformation*. She is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and is of mixed-blood heritage: Chippewa (Ojibwe) and French (Métis) and Norwegian.

**JOSEPH OLE SIMEL**  
**Mainyoito Pastoralist Integrated Development Organization**  
**Kiserian, Kenya**

Joseph Ole Simel is a Maasai from Kenya and is executive director of the Mainyoito Pastoralists Integrated Development Organisation (MPIDO). He has extensive experience and interest in human rights activism and pastoral communities' development. MPIDO was founded in 1996. Its mission is to promote the human rights of pastoralists and to help facilitate their social, economic and political development. They work to ensure that those most directly affected are actively involved in MPIDO's development activities.

**MARIA BELEN PAEZ**  
**Pachamama Foundation**  
**Ecuador**

Maria Belén Páez is 32 years old and was born in Quito, Ecuador. For the past 10 years she has worked with indigenous peoples and nations of the Ecuadorian and Peruvian Amazon basin. During the last 6 years she has been the director of the Pachamama Foundation in Ecuador. Belén coordinates, administers, and provides accompaniment and technical assistance, in the areas of organizational development, territorial management, alternative economic development, lobbying, culture, identity, and education. As an Ecuadorian citizen she believes that Ecuador should no longer extract petroleum, and that there are enormous opportunities to cultivate an alternative model of development in the center and southern Ecuadorian Amazon basin.

**KISTUPA PEAS**  
**Kapawari, Pastaza Province**  
**Ecuador**

Kistupa Peas, an indigenous Achuar, is 40 years old and was born in the community of Kapawari in the province of Pastaza in Ecuador. For the past 13 years, he has been a bilingual teacher in Achuar schools in a number of communities. He has been a naturalist for 5 years for an indigenous-run eco-lodge in Kapawi where he specializes in teaching about parrots and the ecology of tropical forests. Since January 2006 he has been the Vice President of the Achuar Nation of Ecuador. His message is: "The vision of my grandparents and that of the Achuar people is to sow a seed to protect the tropical forests. We want the next generations to recognize and benefit from the labor that we are currently putting into defending our territories. We say 'No to the petroleum companies - we believe that another type of economic development is possible in our territories.' We want to go further with our Ecotourism Kapawi project which allows us to promote locally sustainable business without destroying our future."

**ATOSSA SOLTANI**  
**Amazon Watch**  
**San Francisco, California**  
**Website: [www.amazonwatch.org](http://www.amazonwatch.org)**

Atossa Soltani is the founder and executive director of Amazon Watch, a nonprofit organization dedicated to defending the environment, territories, and rights of the region's indigenous peoples. Since the mid 1990s Atossa has been closely tracking extractive industries and mega-projects in the Amazon Basin. She serves on the board of directors of Social and

Environmental Entrepreneurs, on the Steering Council of the Amazon Alliance and on the Advisory Board of International Funders for Indigenous Peoples.

**ELSA STAMATOPOULOU**

**Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
New York, New York  
Website: [www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii)**

Elsa Stamatopoulou is chief of the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Born in Athens, Greece, She obtained her Law Degree from the University of Athens Law School and entered the Athens Bar Association. She did her Masters studies in the Administration of Criminal Justice, at North-Eastern University, Boston, USA, and her Doctoral studies in Political Science with specialization in International Law, at the University Institute of Graduate International Studies, University of Geneva, Switzerland, and graduate training at the University of Vienna. Stamatopoulou has devoted 23 years of her UN work to human rights. Her areas of specialization include implementation of human rights treaties, rights of the child, rights of indigenous peoples, human rights and development, human rights education and human rights and civil society. She has lectured and written extensively on a variety of human rights topics. She has received the award of the NGO Committee on the Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, the Eleanor Roosevelt Award of the Human Rights Center and of Voices 21 and other awards from grassroots organizations.

**CHUIM TANCHIM**

**Achuar Nation  
Ecuador**

Chuim Tanchim is 31 years old and was born in the community of Pumpuentza. Chuim has been a bilingual professor for 6 years in Achuar schools. He has been an authority for many years in his community, supporting an initiative for forest management and territorial ordering in the community. He has designed and promoted educational programs and activities to rescue Achuar culture and identity. He was designated as the highest authority of the Achuar Nation of Ecuador and he is also a visionary who promotes self-determination and governability within his territory. He has strengthened his community's ideals and knowledge based upon a understanding of collective rights and the defense of territory and free determination. He has helped forge a series of alliances with other indigenous nations and peoples in the defense and protection of the Ecuadorian Amazon.

**VICTORIA TAULI-CORPUZ**

**Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education  
Baguio City, Philippines  
Website: [www.tebtebba.org](http://www.tebtebba.org)**

Victoria Tauli-Corpuz (*Igorot*) is an indigenous activist from the Cordillera region in the Philippines and co-president of the board of the International Forum on Globalization. She is head of the Tebtebba Foundation (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education) in the Philippines. She helped organize and convene the United Nations (UN) Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. Tauli-Corpuz is also chairperson of the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations and convenor of the Asian Indigenous Women's Network. She is one of the leading indigenous activists lobbying for UN General Assembly adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and is the currently elected chairperson of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Tauli-Corpuz is also co-editor, with Jerry Mander of the newly released *Paradigm Wars: Indigenous Peoples Resistance to Globalization* (Sierra Club / UC Press – October 2006)

**MILILANI TRASK**  
**Gibson Foundation**  
**Hilo, Hawaii**

Mililani Trask is a Native Hawaiian attorney with an extensive background on Native Hawaiian land trusts, resources and legal entitlements. Her work has been cited by the Hawaii Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and published by *Cultural Survival* and *IWGIA* magazines on issues relating to native people and human and civil rights. Mililani is a founding member and current chair of the Indigenous Women's Network, a coalition of Native American Women whose work includes community based economic development, social justice, human rights, housing and health. In 2001, she was nominated and appointed as the Pacific representative to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to serve a three-year term beginning Jan. 1, 2002. Mililani was appointed to the position by the President of the Economic Social Council of the United Nations and is currently considered an indigenous expert to the United Nations in international and human rights law. She is an instructor with the International Training Center for Indigenous Peoples in Nuuk, Greenland and a lecturer with the University of Hawaii Center for Hawaiian Studies.

**FELIX VILLCA**  
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**  
**Republic of Bolivia**  
**La Paz, Bolivia**

Felix Villca is Aymara, the indigenous people who have occupied the high-plains of the Andean Mountains in South America for at least 2000 years (preceding the Incan Empire). He was one of the principal organizers of indigenous peoples' activities in South America that took place as a part of globally organized 1992 events marking 500 years of resistance since the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the Americas. He has been collaborating for many years with both Evo Morales, who became Bolivia's first indigenous Head of State when he was elected President in 2005 and with David Choquehuanca who is serving the Morales administration as Minister of Foreign Affairs. Villca now works as a senior advisor in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and as a special liaison between Minister Choquehuanca and indigenous communities.

**SHEILA WATT-CLOUTIER**  
**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Canada**

Sheila Watt-Cloutier is the former chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), the Inuit organization that represents internationally the 155,000 Inuit of Canada, Greenland, Alaska, and Chukotka in the Far East of the Federation of Russia. She has been a political spokesperson for the Inuit for over a decade. Defending the rights of the Inuit has been at the forefront of Sheila's mandate since her election as president of ICC Canada in 1995 and re-election in 1998. She was instrumental as a spokesperson for a coalition of northern Indigenous Peoples in the global negotiations that led to the 2001 Stockholm Convention banning the generation and use of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) that contaminate the arctic food web. In 2002, Sheila was elected international chair of ICC — a term she held until July of 2006. She received the inaugural Global Environment Award from the World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations in recognition for her POPs work. She is the recipient of the 2004 Aboriginal Achievement Award for Environment. In 2005, she was honored with the United Nations Champion of the Earth Award and the Sophie prize in Norway. More recently in 2006 she has been awarded the Global Green USA Award for International Environmental Leadership, the Citation for Lifetime Achievement by the Canadian Environment Awards, an Honorary Doctorate of Law from the

University of Winnipeg and the Canadian Earth Day International Environment Award. Sheila is also to receive the Order of Canada in the coming months.

**RALPH WHITE**  
**New York Open Center**  
**New York, New York**

Ralph White is co-founder of the New York Open Center and editor of *Lapis* magazine. He taught the first accredited course in holistic learning at New York University, and edited and introduced *The Rosicrucian Enlightenment Revisited*.

**TERRI-LYNN WILLIAMS-DAVIDSON**  
**White Raven Law Corporation**  
**Surrey, British Columbia**  
**Canada**

Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson is a citizen of the Haida Nation from Skidegate, Haida Gwaii. She holds degrees in computer science and law from the University of British Columbia. She has practiced in the area of aboriginal-environmental law for the last 10 years, and restricts her personal law practice at White Raven Law in this area. Terri-Lynn represented the Haida Nation at all levels of court in litigation to protect the old-growth forests of Haida Gwaii, *Council of the Haida Nation and Guujaaw, et. al. v. Ministry of Forests, et. al.*, and is currently counsel for the Haida Nation in an Aboriginal Title case. Terri-Lynn was the founding executive director of EAGLE: Environmental-Aboriginal Guardianship through Law and Education, and is currently a board member of Earthlife Canada Foundation. She is also an accomplished traditional singer and dancer, and an active member of the Rainbow Creek Dancers. For the past 30 years Terri-Lynn has been devoted to perpetuating Haida culture, beginning with the formation of a children's dance group and the illustration of a children's book; she continues today as a cultural practitioner and lecturer.

## **CULTURAL PERFORMERS**

### **COATLICUE THEATRE COMPANY**

Hortencia Colorado and Elvira Colorado joined together in New York City in 1988 to found Coatlicue Theatre Company. Named in honor of the Aztec deity of the earth and creation. The company was formed with a dual purpose, seeking to explore borders and reclaim indigenous identity, as well as to provide a voice for issues of Mexican and Chicano survival and struggle within the greater context as indigenous peoples. In addition to writing and performing theatrical works, Coatlicue Theatre Company is deeply involved in community-based exchange. Organizing cultural and political festivals and events in New York City and conducting workshops where participants are trained to use theatre as a tool to empower, educate and create social change. Coatlicue Theatre Company is a member of the NYU Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics and The Network of Ensemble Theatres. Their work has been published in numerous theatre journals and anthologies.

Hortencia Colorado and Elvira Colorado are members of the Mexican dance group, Cetiliztli Nauhcampa Quetzalcoatl in Ixachitlan, The American Indian Community House.

### **THE SILVERCLOUD SINGERS**

The SilverCloud Singers are an intertribal Native American singing & dance troupe weaving the traditional with the contemporary of Native song & dance. SilverCloud has been honored to perform at the commemoration ceremonies for the Year of the Indigenous People's at the United Nations, the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, The Public Theater, The Apollo, Roseland, the Theater at Madison Square Garden, Trinity Church, The American Museum of Natural History, The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and the American Indian College Fund Flame of Hope Gala.

### **SONI MORENO**

Soni Moreno is an actress, singer, composer, poet and trapeze artist. She has studied at the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco, California. She played Chrissie in the original San Francisco and New York productions of "Hair", danced with the Copasettics, and performed at LaMama and ETC in New York and Europe with their production of "Alladin's Lamp," and appeared on Broadway in the "The Leaf People," by Tom O'Horgan. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Indian Community House (AICH) in New York City. She worked with the Smithsonian Institution on the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian.

### **TIOKASIN GHOST HORSE**

Tiokasin Ghost Horse is co-host and co-producer of First Voices Indigenous Radio. He spoke, as a teenager, at the United Nations Conference on Human Rights International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights in Geneva, Switzerland. He participated in several occupations including Wounded Knee, SD in 1973, Lyle Point, WA, Western Shoshone, NV, and Big Mountain, AZ, and has been actively educating people who live on Turtle Island (N. America) and overseas since that time. Tiokasin has been a powerful influential energy in the perseverance of the cedar wood flute tradition and presently keeps a flute made from 600-year-old wood. He has combined the insightful "spoken word" with the transcendence of the cedar flute for 30 years.