

PI 09 mick 363

Mick Dodson
United Nations
Permanent Forum on
Indigenous Issues

Item 4

Report of visit to Hawaii 27-30 October 2008

At the invitation of the Hawaii Institute for Human Rights, Centre for Hawaiian Studies, Centre for Pacific Island Studies, Hawaii Centre for Human Rights Research and Action, Amnesty International Hawaii and United Nations Association: Hawaii Division Associated Campus Human Rights Clubs I was invited to visit Hawaii in my capacity as community nominated member for the Pacific on the Permanent Forum.

I gave a series of lectures, talks and presentations during the course of my stay. I visited a sacred mountain, held discussions with elders and spoke to 3 classes at a local high school.

HIHR hosted me as the keynote speaker for the Know Your Rights Week at Maui Community College. The title of my address was: The Realization of Human Rights in Australia: Aboriginal Rights Today. I also spoke to a Hawaiian Studies class about juxtaposition of Australian Aboriginal and Kanaka Maoli struggles for self-determination.

HIHR arranged for me to visit the sacred mountain Haleakala. There is a proposal to build a new telescope on the mountain which is opposed by local Native Hawaiian NGO's. This was an opportunity for me to visit the summit of Haleakala to view firsthand the potential violations of human and earth rights due to the proposed development against Kanaka Maoli.

HIHR also hosted evening community dialogue at Maui Community College where I spoke about The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues: Global Indigenous Peoples Movement for Justice.

I also spoke to students at the University of Hawaii – West O’ahu. ~~Deena~~ on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: The Implementation of International Law into Daily Living of Indigenous Peoples around the World.

I also become part of the HIHR program of human rights education with elementary – high schools. I visited Iolani School and spoke with 3 classes about indigenous rights and on decolonization and power of non-violence to transform society.

HIHR and HCHR co sponsored my address at the University of Hawaii Manoa on The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Implementation of International Law in the Hawaiian Islands. I also had at that time the opportunity to meet afterwards with members of various departments interested in future collaboration.

My final talk was on Human Rights in Oceania: The Right of Self-Determination in the Liquid Continent.

I would like to thank all those organizations who assisted with my visit and I particularly want to mention Mr. Joshua Cooper without whom the visit would not have eventuated.

My schedules of speaking engagements were as follows:

October 26 Brigham Young University

October 27 Maui Community College

12:00 PM

The Realization of Human Rights in Australia: Aboriginal Rights Today

October 27 Maui Community Visit

3 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

October 27 Maui Community College

7:30 p.m.

October 28 UH West O'ahu

11 a.m.

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Implementation of International Law into Daily Living of Indigenous Peoples around the World

October 29 Iolani School

8.00 am. – 11.00 am

Australian Aboriginal peoples and cultures.

October 29 Hawaii Pacific University

October 30 UH Manoa Law School

Noon

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues: Global Indigenous Peoples Movement for the Justice

October 30 UH Manoa CHS

6:30 p.m.

Human Rights in Oceania: The Right of Self-Determination in the Liquid Continent

Key issues for the Hawaiian peoples