

brothers and sisters are sitting in federal and state prisons, most of them convicted off-reservations, pursuant to the laws of the states or federal government, for crimes committed within reservation jurisdictions. To be a Nation is to have sovereignty. To have sovereignty is to make laws pursuant to your own value system and adjudicate them in your own courts using your own language and moral judgment.

As Native Americans, we are being denied this very basic element of sovereignty. We are the only people in America being judicially discriminated against by being subjected to federal laws without our consent and/or revision of our treaties. We are not afforded the opportunity to be tried by local laws of our own native society, like every citizens in America are afforded. Our situation is like having every American citizen being subjected to federal laws and the only thing the states are allowed to adjudicate is misdemeanors--you think the states will go for that? NO WAY! They will scream; states' rights, home rule, constitution, etc.

Without tribe's ability to exercise sovereign rights, all this talk of government to government, self-governance, Indian solutions to Indian problems are nothing but hallowed political rhetoric.

With recent discovery of bingo on Indian lands, we are facing new threat to what remains of our sovereignty. We are now witnessing a 20th century version of what happened to us in the 19th century when gold, oil and other minerals were discovered on our lands. Watch out for General Armstrong Trump and Andrew Jackson mentality. Sovereignty is the key to our survival as nations and as people with unique culture. Sovereignty must be the primary agenda for all tribes. Our land, our water and our economic future hangs in balance on this issue. It is time to rekindle the council fires and snatch victory from the jaws of those who would want to take away what little remains to us as nations. Some of us have been put away by the system so that we will fight no more for the rights of our people. We look to you to recapture what rightly belonged to us as nations. Perhaps with your efforts some of us, who are political prisoners, will eventually be freed. If you wish to learn more about the insidious way our future has been and still is being shaped, my recently released book "The Last Warrior" tells much more about our struggle for nationhood and clashes with states and the feds over this very issue. If you can't get a copy from your local book store, you can call toll free: 1-800-733-3000 and ask for stock # 0-517-59323-8.

Wilma, May the Great Spirit be with you always giving you wisdom, knowledge and understanding. Let me hear your thoughts on this.

HAPPY 1994 to you and yours.

I understand you have a book out too. Wish you Good sales.

Respectfully,

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