

Government enforced visions and goals creating destruction, crises and our solutions"

I want to focus and talk in general about what's happening on ground across some of the communities, home lands and language groups. How this is impacting on the people. I'm seeing more of our people, leaders who would be happy living out on their homelands now moving into towns, where these actions encourage their families, younger generations to follow, I hear and see the anger, resentment and hate that are building. People are worried about home lands. Worried about what's happening to their people, yet have no power to take control. Since governments brought in welfare over the last 40 years our people have become so reliant on hand outs, governments have created the situation so people are dependent on them to survive.

Majority of people across Australia will now have some idea of what the intervention is about. Just to recap the current form of intervention aboriginal people ended up with in the NT is something that was developed by John Howard's party supported by the labour, the current party in power. These measures were brought into across the NT Communities and Home lands on the pretend of Child sexual abuse, Paedophile rings wide spread across the NT.

2007 The aim of John Howard was to dramatise and sensationalize, to get the general public sympathy and support, where the governments send in the Australian army to majority of the communities. Majority of Aboriginal people had no idea what this was all about, and to this day are only coming to terms on the meaning of it all. Why did we have the army send in?? Was the government declaring war on our first people? Can someone explain the reasoning why they came in force?

- Kevin Rudd frames this crisis in terms of closing the gap. NT Intervention now 'closing the gap NT', it has become the spearhead framework for Aboriginal policy around the country
 - Nationwide lease regime (housing conditional on 'secure land tenure')
 - Economic viability - homelands policy
 - Bi-lingual policy
- Punitive legislation imposed to address 'crisis'. Briefly outline measures:
 - continued suspension of the RDA (recently proposed changes)
 - compulsory acquisition of land
 - abolition of CDEP
 - income management
 - mainstreaming of Aboriginal service delivery/organisations

How long are the Governments going to use the lies and spins trying to support their case all measures are working, when on the ground it's totally opposite? People are just living day to day, there are no programs

"Amnesty International's Irene Kahn described the conditions in "prescribed communities" as the worst poverty she had ever seen.

The blunt force of the intervention's heavy handed 'one size fits all' approach cannot deliver the desired results. The Government will not secure the long term protection of women and children unless there is an integrated human rights solution that empowers peoples and engages them to take responsibility for the solutions," Irene Khan said.

Statement of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, James Anaya, as he concludes his visit to Australia

Canberra/Geneva, 27 August 2009

The Emergency Response is incompatible with Australia's obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, treaties to which Australia is a party, as well as incompatible with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to which Australia has affirmed its support. This approach must involve a real partnership between the Government and the indigenous peoples of Australia, to move towards a future, as described by Prime Minister Rudd in his apology to indigenous peoples last year, that is "based on mutual respect, mutual resolve and mutual responsibility," and that is also fully respectful of the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to maintain their distinct cultural identities, languages, and connections with traditional lands, and to be in control of their own destinies under conditions of equality.

In late June, the federal government helped launch a paper entitled *Bridges and Barriers: Addressing Indigenous Incarceration and Health*.

It was the Rudd government that this year (and last) slashed Aboriginal legal aid funding despite promising prior to the election to "strengthen funding to Aboriginal Legal Aid agencies".

And of course it has been predominantly state Labour governments locking up Aboriginal people at record rates since the 1991 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, a four-year, \$40 million exercise that was supposed to reduce incarceration rates. But in the decade immediately after its release, the Aboriginal prison population rose by 107%. It included some startling statistics, such as: "One in four prisoners in Australia is Indigenous and their over-representation in the jail system is only getting worse".

One in four is no mean feat given that in the general population, Indigenous Australians make up one in 40.

The following figures come from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

"The situation is worst in the Northern Territory, where 83 percent of the prison population is Indigenous."

That's 83% in a jurisdiction where Aboriginal people constitute less than 30% of the total population.

In the first half of 2008, there were 8411 Indigenous people enrolled in tertiary education. At the same time, there were 6605 Indigenous people in prison.

By comparison, for the same period there were about 696,279 non-Indigenous Australians enrolled in tertiary education, while there were 20,072 non-Indigenous Australians in prison.

The jailing rate of black males in South Africa at the end of the Apartheid era (1993) was 851 per 100,000 populations. In Australia today, we jail black males at a national rate of 4364 per 100,000. That's over five times higher.

In the Northern Territory, the rate is almost six times higher.

In fact, no state or territory of Australia — not even the ACT — jails black males at a rate less than South Africa under apartheid.

The closest is Tasmania, at 1169 per 100,000 populations.

So Australia's "best performer" is still almost 30% worse than the regime considered one of the most racist on Earth.

Our worst performer — Western Australia — jails black males at more than eight times the rate of South Africa during apartheid.

The independent coordinator for Indigenous services appointed by the Northern Territory Government says Government ministers and departments are suppressing information about Aboriginal policy failures.

The coordinator, Bob Beadman, has released his first six-monthly report.

He criticizes ministers and departments who he says are creating a "skewed" picture of progress in remote Indigenous communities and town camps.

He says they are suppressing the truth in order to paint themselves in the best possible light.

The Working Future project was set up with the intent of closing the gap of Indigenous disadvantage through the delivery of better services and infrastructure in 20 targeted "growth towns".

Mr. Beadman says there is a lot of work to be done to change entrenched social problems.

Yes a crisis does exist for Aboriginal people in this country. This has existed for over 200 years. The crisis is racism. It is colonization, dispossession, assimilation, intergenerational trauma, decades of underfunding and attacks on Aboriginal organizations and Aboriginal autonomy, coercive cultural genocide. It's not getting any better

Since the introduction of NTER Measures in 2007

- Our land and communities taken away
- Our permit system taken away
- All our corporations/Associations closed down
- All our offices, assets taken away
- We are now where we were over 40 years ago left with nothing and back on welfare control.
- Communities are a mess
- No community meetings, consultations
- No real jobs only work for the dole programs, which has not been started

- No training to give people skills to be work ready to move away from welfare
- No meetings, discussions about future development or hand over of roles and responsibilities
- No health programs in communities to talk about health and hygiene issues, the focus is on bandaid programs and treatments.
- Income management is a farce, children, families are still able to use each other's basic cards to shop, and Children go to shop to buy soft drinks and lollies using their family, mother's card.
- No coordination of other government agencies to work together by the General Business Manager.
- Personal attacks between CEO Barkly Shire and ICC Manager in Tennant Creek.

Prescribed Communities

We must also realize the governments are only focusing on the 15 prescribed Communities out of 73. What's going to happen to the rest of Communities and home lands? Some will only get refurbishments and those home lands and community needs are just as important as the 15 targeted. We still have over crowding 12-15 people per house. Where is the consultation and discussion with rest of these communities to start looking at our needs?

The annoying, embarrassing and disgusting things I hear from some of our lands council, Aboriginal leaders putting out statement saying, we welcome the Federal government's decision to reinstate the RDA. These were so passive, no bite or teeth. The governments been saying that all along and nothing has happened. We have human rights issues, disempowerment of our people, land taken away, all our corporations, associations, infrastructure, assets taken away and we are back where we were over 40 years ago with nothing. We are being told we will move you people from your home lands into hub centres. The services in home lands will close down over time, so people have no choice but to be forced to move into the hub towns.

All I can say about the lands councils, Aboriginal organizations, and their leaders is, they are dog tagged; welfare tags and is part of the governments and their system to divide and break us up, to divide and assimilate so we are all controlled like them. What are these people afraid off, is it losing their big salary, government cars, air-conditioned office's or have they given up, then all I can say now is when things are getting heated in the kitchen it's time for those leaders to get out.

It's time now aboriginal people started thinking about leadership changes in those organizations, to get rid of the ones with dog tags and reshape those organizations, into a force that will represent, support and help their own people of this country.

With our intervention Walk off, and our protest camp, this was about standing up against policies and laws which takes away everything we believe and stand for. Human rights, our rights as indigenous people to determine our own future

directions, our rights to determine to live in peace, freedom, and security, free from genocide and other acts of violence.

The way forward for aboriginal people is self determination, and management, Control of our own affairs, to charter our own destiny, a vision which we have always had, which we will all continue to strive for. Which Acknowledges and links us as the first peoples, owners, custodians of our country. We are People that still have strong connections with Mother Earth and her creations, and all living creatures. Our stories, our ceremonies which also is interconnected through our spiritual dreaming

• **Some of Our solutions to this crisis:**

- We want binding and unconditional autonomy over the lives of our people/communities.
- Empowerment of communities through funding and support for Aboriginal organizations/programs i.e. CDEP
- Empowerment of culture through integration of Aboriginal political/cultural systems in decision making for communities
- Job creation in culturally appropriate industries i.e. caring for country, this is about creating sustainable home land communities, focus on renewable energy, Perma culture. Aboriginal people have a great opportunity to lead, to return to grass roots, to start engaging with nature again, it's about the importance of igniting our spiritual beliefs, with mother earth and all her creations, we humans are part of that creation, we need air, water just like everything else on this great planet. Before colonization, just like our Native American Indian brothers and sisters, we lived in harmony with nature and her creation, we managed our land, territory, we managed this in a way the animals were never wiped out, and we had songs and ceremonies for country, rain dance's and animals. We had hard ships and good times through changing seasons but the country and our lands were always healthy.

Indigenous people worldwide have ancient knowledge and practices to solve/deal with climate crises. But this will need super human effort from all humans on earth to convince our world leaders, to change the mind set to a culture where we all focus on living with nature in a way we are part of a last paradise on this earth to save what we have left. First we have to make our world leaders believe their greed has to stop;

- Digging up our minerals
- Stop destroying our forest
- Stop relying on short term benefits/fixes
- Focus away from fossil fuels on renewable energy
- Stop polluting the air
- Stop blaming the public
- Stop destruction of our oceans, senseless killing of our whales
- Stop invading other countries and creating wars
- Stop the apartheid system

The rebuilding of people, the restoration of their pride and self-worth is far more difficult and more important, this is going to take decades if aboriginal people are ever going to be given that opportunity to engage at all levels to determine our own future. The consultation and true engagement needs to start now and not 4-5 years down the track.

We have lost so much of our traditions and customs, through taking away of our lands, by being forced into reserves, missions and communities. Losing Our Languages, Language defines a culture, through the people who speak it and what it allows speakers to say. Words that describe a particular cultural practice or idea may not translate precisely into another language. Many endangered languages have rich oral cultures with stories, songs, and histories passed on to younger generations, but no written forms. With the extinction of a language, an entire culture is lost. I see this happening today across this country.

National Geographic's Enduring Voices Every 14 days a language dies. By 2100, more than half of the more than 7,000 languages spoken on Earth—many of them not yet recorded—may disappear, taking with them a wealth of knowledge about history, culture, the natural environment, and the human brain.

Climate Change

We know earth has its own natural climate cycles it has gone through over hundreds of millions of years, the evidence is there in ancient rocks, mountains, river bed systems. What we humans have done is help speed up the process with added pollution in such a short time.

Do we know how long the Co2 pollution we have created will be in the atmosphere? Fifty, hundreds or thousand years. What about the oceans, sea creatures, what about our ground water is this being polluted. And drained do we still have a chance to reverse the change? Destruction or is it now a matter of trying to survive. Are we going to see migration of millions of people from war torn countries, countries affected by drought and starvation. Will a country like Australia be able to sustain that amount of people? Or will our Australian governments continue to ignore all signals that are telling us Mother Nature cannot sustain humans in the direction we are taking.

On Mother Earth, we are all one, all interconnected. We need a global movement for environmental and social justice. Linking movements through today's technology. We must encourage and bring into our folds the younger generation and encourage them to set up networks around the globe.

Do I feel hope and see directional changes in my time, I'm not sure but I do see flicker of hope, candles flicker and burn across this country, every person I speak with, black and white appear to be all on same page. We seem to be waiting for a movement from someone somewhere.

This is where I do see the movement of Socialist Alliance and Aboriginal Political Party coming into play, a party that is committed to the aboriginal and non aboriginal grass roots movements and struggle for our rights, a party that is outside the mainstream of political machines. A party that recognizes the importance of its grass roots people. But a party needs good people, leaders, speakers who can ignite passion, who can engage people of all ethnic cultures who

can get that trust and respect, a party that can show people yes there is a way out and away from the destructive system. Yes your ideas and views are just as important.

The journey for all of us from today will not be easy, but unity is about everyone joining together, standing together to face the same issues, and problems to stand for human rights, climate change, racism and discrimination.

Where do we go from here, We need to understand and acknowledge the engine room and driving force behind Minister's and the Governments are the senior buericrats, policy and decision makers who are entrenched in these positions of power for years. We need to start targeting and embarrassing these people at all levels along with the ministers, we know the governments come and go but these policy decision makers will always be there and will not change because they are not being attacked and embarrassed.

We must also overcome our own fear of the unknown, start stepping outside of our comfort, follow our hearts and passion, see obstacles as small hurdles, challenges that we can overcome. The future of humans and our last paradise is much more precious and more at stake. A paradise we can leave for the next generation, a paradise we cannot let our governments destroy for their greed.

A **sovereign human** is defined as a natural flesh and blood sentient man or woman who has "*supreme authority or jurisdiction within themselves, independent of any outside authority/jurisdiction.*" In essence sovereignty means the right of self-determination or self-government.

As **sovereign people our human** primary *duty of care* and obligation is a moral and/or ethical one *not to intentionally or negligently cause injury, harm, damage or loss* to another sovereign human's life, liberty or property. No sovereign human has a right to impose their conscience and will over another sovereign human without their voluntary consent or agreement.

We are not the servants or slaves of the parliaments and their laws. They are the public servants and representatives of the people elected to serve us. We must **hold them accountable**. We do not serve the law. The law serves us or it is a nullity and entitled to no obedience and respect.

The Federal Australian Constitution states: "**... the truth is the supreme absolute and uncontrollable authority remains with the people.**" (**Preamble: p.286**). We are supreme sovereign authority over our State and Federal Parliaments. The government/parliament has no sovereignty because it is an artificial entity/person; a legal fiction created by the supreme authority of the people! Never forget that.

All of us here today and our brothers and sisters across this country, we have the power to change the governments, power to steer our governments in the direction we want. It's only when we all start to come together we will see changes for better of all our people and our mother earth.

Thank you