



"ONE ABORIGINAL FAMILY"

Aboriginal activist Pat Dodson, Chairman of the National Federation of Land Rights Councils, gave this report on the Aboriginal mobilization in observance of the 200th anniversary of the Europeans' arrival in Australia:

"About 15,000 Aboriginal people were in Sydney on January 26th, 1988—the largest protest by any one people in Australia's history. When we marched, the spirit of our forbears was with us. We all remembered Jandamarra, Pemulwuy, the Kalkadoon warriors, Arapie—all the heroes and heroines who died defending the land, the culture, the ceremonies. Those without a spirit or a heart to see would not have experienced, known, or appreciated this.

"We marched together as one Aboriginal family and we reasserted our nationhood. This was expressed by Central Land Council Chairman Wenten Rubuntja when he said 'Aboriginal people living along the coast where the white people took over first might not know their language anymore, but the Emu story and the Snake story go all over Australia and we are all descended from these stories, they come from the sea through our country, all over Australia.'

"On the streets of Sydney, we were like one great black snake and our presence was living proof of the 200-year-old lie that founded white Australia—the 'legality' that declared Australia an 'empty continent' or Terra Nullius.

"For the remainder of 1988 our struggle will focus on these self-evident truths—our fundamental demand for land, culture, and justice—and we will continue to build our theme: 'We have survived—we were always here, and we will always be.'"

SOURCE: LAND RIGHTS NEWS, P.O. Box 3321, Alice Springs, NT 5750, Australia.

MALAYSIA



TRIBAL PEOPLE ARRESTED IN LUMBER PROTESTS

Malaysian police have cracked down on Penan tribal people protesting the invasion of their lands by logging companies. In December and January, 128 Penans from Sarawak province were arrested under a new law that makes blocking a logging road an offense punishable by a two-year jail sentence, and a fine equivalent to U.S. \$2500.

So many of the younger Penan men have now been jailed that it is feared that the women and children left in the forest villages will face acute food shortages. The Penans are being held in small cells in the police stations at Miri and Marudi. Despite cramped conditions and inadequate facilities, they are reported to be in good morale.

The Sarawak Director of Forests, Mr. Leo Chai, has said that firm action against the Penan needed to be taken because they have been "stubborn" and "have to be taught a lesson." Some of the blockades have been torn down by police and re-erected by the Penan nine or ten times. 80% of the hardwoods logged in the Penan rainforest are exported to Japan.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Rainforest Action Network, 300 Broadway, Suite 28, San Francisco, CA 94133.

Objectives and Goals of SAIIC

SAIIC's goals are to promote peace and social justice for Indian people:

(1) by providing information to the general public in the U.S., and to human rights and solidarity organizations regarding the struggles for survival and self-determination of Indian peoples of South and Meso America.

(2) by facilitating exchange and promoting direct communication and understanding between Indian people.

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