



This edition of the SAIIC Newsletter is dedicated to 500 years of organized Native resistance, in the fight for land, culture, and to protect the Mother Earth. As Indian communities and their organizations throughout the Americas prepare to observe the 500th anniversary of the European invasion of the American continent, SAIIC urges everyone to reexamine the historical record of colonialism, and to take note of the ways in which policies of the "new colonialism" are still denying our ancestral rights.

While European governments plan to celebrate the "Discovery" of America by reenacting the "conquest" of Indian nations, there are diverse ways in which Native people will commemorate the 500 Years—through the participation of children, women, and men; through oral tradition, storytelling, collective memory, healing ceremonies, music, dance, song, handicrafts, reinterpretation of events; through the investigation of the current situation in Native communities, through the self-demarkation of ancestral territories, through books, radio programs, and films, reaching out to non-Indian people at a national and international level to join forces in our campaign of self-discovery.

SAIIC is working with Native organizations from throughout the Americas on the 500 Years campaign, and plans to help organize an international conference to discuss strategies for the 500 Years activities. We invite everybody to join with us in "rediscovering our America," and to take immediate action in support of the work of Indigenous organizations as they look toward the future.

In this issue, we also mourn the assassination of many Native people whose lives have been taken for defending their land and basic human rights. It is not with sadness but with ever-increasing strength that we keep their memory with us as we go forward.

