

# 500 Years of Indian Resistance and the Popular Movement

(Guatemala) The "Continental Campaign: 500 Years of Indian Resistance and the Popular Movement" took place in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala from October 7-12, 1991. More than 200 delegates participated of whom about 130 were non-Indian representatives from popular movements and about 70 were Indian delegates from South, Central and North America. Some of the main topics of the agenda were: democracy, human rights, Indian rights, land and life, neocolonialism and self-determination, and women and youth.

For more information, contact:  
Secretaria Operativa, Apdo Postal 7-B  
Sucursal el Trebol, 01903  
Guatemala, GUATEMALA C.A.  
Phone: 28932

## **TRADITIONAL O'ODHAM OF MEXICO DEMAND RECOGNITION**

(Mexico) The O'Odham of Sonora, Mexico and the Tohono O'Odham Nation of southern Arizona are all one people, however they have yet to be fully recognized and respected as one sovereign nation by both the United States and Mexico. The Traditional O'Odham Leaders of Mexico are petitioning to the O'Odham Nation of Arizona, to recognize the O'Odham of Mexico as part of their nation, and the lands in Mexico as part of the ancestral lands of the Tohono O'Odham Nation.

The Traditional O'Odham Leaders of Mexico are presently exerting a major effort to recover or reclaim ancestral lands for the O'Odham during this six-year term of President Salinas de Gortari in Mexico. They are petitioning the Federal and State government agencies of Sonora and the Tohono O'Odham Council in Sells, Arizona that any dealings with the O'Odham of Mexico be presented to the Traditional O'Odham of Mexico first for their review and action on it. In this way, the traditions, culture, language and sacred sites can be protected.

For the past 100 years, the O'Odham of Mexico have protested the conditions in which they live under the Mexican government, the violation of their human rights and the invasion of their ancestral land rights. The National Indigenist Institute (INI) has collaborated more likely than not with the ranchers and drug traffickers who continue to usurp even more lands from the O'Odham of Mexico.

The Traditional O'Odham Leaders of Mexico were organized to face the problem of INI appointing hand-picked O'Odham and non-O'Odham to serve in official positions. There are inherent problems with this select few who have maintained an absolute control over the internal governance and over funds designated to benefit the O'Odham of Mexico's small economic development projects. These people have been dedicated to their own interests and those of the INI officials and not to the needs of the Traditional O'Odham.

The Traditional O'Odham of Mexico are now developing the "O'Odham in Mexico Program" which focuses on different areas such as community development assessment, land development assessment and legal intervention. They have entered the international arena with two petitions to the United Nation's Working Group for Indigenous Populations in Geneva.

For more information and how you can be supportive of the O'Odham in Mexico Program, you may contact: George Ignacio or Frank Mariano in Arizona at (602) 383-2249.

