



# In Canada are Aboriginal Lives Worth Less?

**Coalition for a Public Inquiry Prepares to Take the Dudley George Case to the United Nations in Geneva Switzerland**

June 5, 2002

Dear Friends and Allies,

## **RE: Report to the United Nations on Racism and the Case of Dudley George**

On September 6, 1995, Dudley George, an Aboriginal man of Pottawatomi heritage, died during a non-violent protest. He was defending the land, treaty and cultural rights of his People the Aazhoondenaang Enjibaajiig or Stony Point People. Dudley George, an unarmed man was gunned down by an Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officer.

Millions of Canadian and First Nation citizens, in their collective voices through more than 100 organizations, have called for a Public Inquiry into Ipperwash. The Ontario Tories have made it clear they have no intention of ever calling an Ipperwash Inquiry, leaving the complete burden for uncovering the truth to private citizens such as Dudley George's family, legal counsel, and activist organizations. After exhausting all avenues for an inquiry, we are taking this matter to the United Nations Committee responsible for reviewing Canada's performance on implementation of the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)*. This international human rights hearing will be held in Geneva, August 13 and 14, 2002.

The actions that took place at Ipperwash violate the *International Convention On The Elimination Of All Forms Of Racial Discrimination (CERD)* in various ways. For example, the very nature of the OPP response was racist by definition, violating Article 2.a of the *CERD*. The State authority targeted the Stony Point protestors and used excessive force because the protestors were Aboriginal. One of the reasons we say this with certainty is because of documents obtained by the Coalition for a Public Inquiry through federal Access to Information legislation. These documents show that the Department of National Defense (DND) was collecting information that linked the Stony Point occupation to other Native "standoffs" in which firearms were used.

OPP correspondence with DND at the time repeatedly stresses reports of firearm use in the Park both prior to the shooting of Dudley George and following. These reports were never substantiated in the many criminal court cases associated with the police assault at Ipperwash. On the contrary, the justice system concluded that the Stony Point People were not armed. This judgement concurs with the conclusion reached by Jim

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Moses, the informer planted by federal authorities, who reported the same observation to federal "intelligence" authorities more than one month before September 6<sup>th</sup>. The OPP were aware of Moses' conclusions.

One of the ways that international human rights bodies, such as the UN committees, get meaningful and honest accounts on the real situation in member nations is through what is called a "Shadow Report". As we did with the Ipperwash issue in regards to the *Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, the Coalition for a Public Inquiry into Ipperwash will prepare a "Shadow Report" on Ipperwash for the UN Committee that monitors the *CERD*.

We trust no government Ontario or Canada, both of whom were involved in preparation of Canada's 1993-1997 report on the *CERD* to speak the truth about the racism underlying the attack on the Stoney Point People and the death of Dudley George. We will go ourselves to tell the truth, as we know it from almost seven years of work on this issue, directly to the United Nations Committee members.

Over the next two months we will need to raise approximately \$10,000:

## CPI Budget to reach the Geneva UN Hearing on Racism in Canada

Flight	\$1,600.00
Accommodation	\$1,000.00
Food	\$ 700.00
Local Transit	\$ 200.00
Office Expenses	\$1,000.00
Translation Costs	\$1,000.00
Legal Costs	\$ 500.00
Honorarium	<u>\$4,000.00</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b><u>\$10,000.00</u></b>

This money will be used to research, write a report, and send a First Nations CPI representative, Sharon Gmitroski-Menow (Cree, Norway House), to present our evidence to the United Nations. Because we believe racism is the primary problem facing Aboriginal people in Canada, we are also offering to present to the UN on your behalf any reports of Racial Discrimination against Aboriginal people that you or your organization may wish to write. Donations are payable to the Coalition for a Public Inquiry into Ipperwash with "CERD project" in the memo line. Any additional funds will be forwarded to the Ipperwash Justice Fund.

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# **In Canada are Aboriginal Lives Worth Less?**

We hope that you will join our movement, by:

- supporting Coalition strategy and funding requests;
- educating others about the opportunities international forums provide; and
- initiating strategies of your own to participate in these forums.

For more information or to make a donation, please contact us at:

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In Solidarity,

Robin Buyers, Sharon Gmitroski-Menow and Ann Pohl  
(for the Coalition for a Public Inquiry Core Group)

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