



News Release

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Today's Date: February 22, 2002

Release Date: February 15, 2002

Draft

Olympia Forum to Examine War, Terrorism and Indigenous Peoples

Olympia – The Center for World Indigenous Studies (CWIS), a public policy, research and education organization in Olympia, is sponsoring a public forum entitled “World War and the Fourth World” on Monday March 11 beginning at 7:00pm at the Olympia Center. The Forum is partially funded by the Washington Commission for the Humanities.

“A panel of experts will engage in a moderated discussion in an attempt to answer the question: ‘Does the War on Terrorism pit America against indigenous peoples?’” according to CWIS Director Rudolph Ryser. Audience questions and discussion will follow initial remarks by panelists.

The public forum will be staged for a radio broadcast with Dr. Rudolph Ryser serving as the moderator. Guest panelists will include David A. Price, Ph.D., professor of Anthropology at Saint Martins College, Richard A. Griggs, Ph.D., a cultural geographer and Bernard Q. Nietschmann Chair for Fourth World Geography, Mr. David Martinez, Secretary General of the Alliance for Separate and Independent Nations – Philippines (ASIN) and Steve Niva, professor of Political Science at The Evergreen State College.

The public forum will discuss the implications of U.S. government attacks on indigenous peoples’ organizations, the blockading of tribal territories in North America, the arrest and trial of tribal members, and the geopolitical implications of US government actions in Africa, the Middle East, the Philippines, Asia and in the Americas.

According to Dr. Ryser the US government’s list of 168 Foreign Terrorist Organizations released by the US Department of State mixes suspected groups, individuals and organizations threatening the United States with indigenous peoples’ organizations. “The list of those groups connected with the suspected perpetrators of attacks on the United States – the al Qaida organization headed by Asama bin Laden are mixed with groups that have no relationship to attacks on the United States or the bin Laden organization,” According to Ryser.

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