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WORLD COUNCIL OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (WCIP)
BOGOTA
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D E C L A R A T I O N O F B O G O T A

The World Council of Indigenous Peoples (WCIP), an international organization with consultative status in the United Nations and its regional organizations, the Regional Coordinator of the Indian Peoples of Central America, Mexico and Panama (CORPI), the Indian Council of South America (CISA), the Nordic Sami Council (NSC), the Regional Council of North America (RCNA), and the Regional Council of the Pacific (RCP), declare to the government of Nicaragua, to the Indian organization MISURASATA and to public opinion in general that: the principles of our Indian Peoples in America and in the rest of the world are born with the history of humanity, and these are the principles which guide WCIP. The States and Republics which exist today are the products of invasions, occupations and colonization of our peoples and original nations, which have institutionalized a systematic oppression on the part of their governments in opposition to our peoples, imposing models and systems foreign to the reality of our existence.

During the [Spanish] colonization and existence of the Republic of Nicaragua the rights of the Indian Peoples have not been recognized; on the contrary, [Indians] have been the objects of dispossession of their fundamental rights.

With the change of government in Nicaragua and the new administrative process of the Frente Sandinista de Liberacion Nacional, the Miskito, Sumu, and Rama peoples expected to achieve recognition of their historic rights.

After five years of the present Nicaraguan administration, the Indian Peoples continue fighting for their inalienable rights, such as: autonomy, territorial rights, natural resources, culture, social organization, economy and politics.

The failure to recognize these rights, and the genocidal policies brought against the Indian People through violence and repression, have produced a violent response, actions that have been and are taken advantage of by political interests antagonistic toward and foreign to the Indian struggle, obstructing and aggravating the situation of our brothers.

The WCIP and its regional organizations are familiar with and lend their decided aid to the organization MISURASATA in its requests to the Nicaraguan authorities to

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