

Finally, the United Nations General Assembly ratified the UNDRIP on September 13th, 2008, after two and half decades of international negotiations between the United Nations and an international movement of Indigenous peoples. Canada has not ratified the UNDRIP and without significant public pressure, likely never will as it is an expansive document that would get to the root of the injustices faced by Canada's Indigenous peoples. Specifically Article 8 of the UNDRIP applies to the situation the Haudenosaunee face daily: "States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for: (b) Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources." While Canada has not ratified this agreement, the UNDRIP can still come to represent the many of the principals that the non-indigenous people of Turtle Island follow when standing in solidarity with the Six Nations.

The Brantford injunction that has criminalized protests on land development sites around the Six Nations Reserve has led to over 60 people being arrested and more than 160 charges being laid on land defenders. Speakers expressed outrage to this and other injustices to a diverse crowd, a crowd now indicative of the growing cooperation between various movements. Speakers included land defender Ruby Montour who was charged under the injunction, Phil Montour who is an expert in land claims issues, Jim Windle a founder of Two-ROW Understanding through Education (TRUE), Chris Harris of the Black Action Defense Committee in Toronto, Missy Elliot and John Henhawk of the Young Onkwehonwe United (YOU), Lawyer Sarah Dover, members from CAW, USW, CUPE, and various other groups and individuals.

Missy Elliot of YOU, a Haudenosaunee youth organization, gave an inspiring speech in front of the statue of Joseph Brant in front of City Hall, Laurier Brantford, and the Superior Court of Justice: "We need unity not just between people in our community, but between Native and non-Native groups [...] This is happening everywhere, we are not alone here on Six Nations [...] We have to come together, there's no choice [...] We can't stay quite anymore."

Ruby Montour, an Elder who was charged with mischief, extortion, and intimidation for blocking a development site on May 12th 2008, in Cayuga, spoke about the injunction and Native land defenders in front of the Superior Court: "We're encompassed with a host of witnesses, they may be in a spirit around, but they're here nonetheless. And we're the voices of today, because they're not here to speak about the injustices done to them. And in 2009 it's still going on." After fiery speeches at City Hall, MPP Dave Levac's office, and Harmony Square there was a march throughout downtown. After the four-hour rally, those



*Photo: Sterling Stutz*  
Y.O.U. Member John Henhawk holds the Mohawk Warrior flag at a Solidarity Rally in Brantford Ontario

who participated were invited to a potluck dinner at the Reclamation Site of the Kanata Village.

The final speaker of the evening at the potluck was Tom Keefer of CUPE, stated: "Six Nations is losing the land base every single day [...] and it needs to stop now [...] We have to, as non-Native peoples, take a stand and show that we oppose what our government is doing and demand the charges be dropped, the injunction to be dropped, and the meaningful negotiations happen [...] We need to bring hundreds of non-Native people to go on the front lines and to be standing there, side by side with the people from Six Nations, arm in arm, and say you shall not pass" to land developers and police.

The government of Canada cannot speak with moral authority at home or abroad when these egregious violations of human rights are being committed against the people in occupied Afghanistan, Six Nations and Indigenous cultures around the world. As settlers, we need to take responsibility to uphold our part of the agreement for everyone's human rights, and stand in solidarity with Indigenous nations against the criminal human rights abuses of colonialization and genocide.

*Luke Stewart is a PhD Student in the Department of History at the University of Waterloo studying war crimes and human rights.*