

Activity Report 2023

The main focus of our work was:

Continuation of activities for the **ratification of ILO Convention 169** on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by Austria

Collaboration on the **4-part radio program** (Austrian Radio Ö1) "**The Fate of the Indigenous Peoples of North America**" as part of the "Radiokolleg" series

Screening of the film "Warrior Women" at the Megaplex cinema (Gasometer) and live-online discussion with Lakota representatives

Renewed **participation in the volunteer fair** to learn about opportunities to recruit activists

Organizational activities

March 2023

General Assembly AKIN - The existing board was re-elected.

Chairman: Peter Schwarzbauer

Deputy Chairman: Gawan Maringer

Treasurer: Matthias Neitsch

Without specific function: Angelika Fröch

April 2023

General Assembly of the "European Alliance for the Self-Determination of Indigenous Peoples" (hereinafter referred to as the "Alliance") via Zoom. The Alliance consists of the following members:

- Aktionsgruppe Indianer & Menschenrechte (AGIM), München, Deutschland; www.aktionsgruppe.de
- *Arbeitskreis Indianer Nordamerikas (AKIN), Wien, Österreich; www.arbeitskreis-indianer.at*
- Comité de Solidarité avec les Indiens des Amériques (CSIA-NITASSINAN), Paris, France: www.csia-nitassinan.org
- Internationales Komitee für die Indigenen Amerikas Schweiz, Zürich, Schweiz: www.incomindios.ch
- MENSCHENRECHTE 3000 e.V. (HUMAN RIGHTS 3000), Freiburg, Deutschland: www.menschenrechte3000.de
- Tokata-LPSG RheinMain e.V.; Seligenstadt, Germany: www.leonardpeltier.de
- Verein zur Unterstützung nordamerikanischer Indianer (ASNAI), Berlin, Deutschland: www.asnai.de

The Alliance Board of Directors was re-elected and consists of:
Chairman: Peter Schwarzbauer (AKIN)
Deputy Chairman: Sylvain Duez-Alesandrini (CSIA-NITASSINAN)
Treasurer: Monika Seiller (AGIM)
Deputy Treasurer: Helena Nyberg (Incomindios Switzerland)

January-
December 2023

Weekly meetings of AKIN via ZOOM, some meetings already held again physically at Matthias Neitsch's place.

In addition to the Alliance's General Assembly, four virtual meetings and one physical meeting (Paris) took place throughout the year.

Campaigns/Protest actions

January-
December 2023

Continuation of the activities for the **ratification of the ILO Convention 169** on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by Austria in cooperation with the legal anthropologist, Dr. René Kuppe. A "Coordination Circle ILO 169 Austria", which in addition to AKIN includes nine NGOs from the development, environmental/climate, church and human rights sectors, could be consolidated. After decades of efforts by various NGOs, the Convention had been ratified by Germany in June 2021. Dr. Kuppe had also intensively accompanied this process in Germany. The meetings of the coordination circle took place about once a month. Unfortunately, there is massive headwind from the business community and the Greens are not particularly committed in this regard due to the ÖVP's dominance in the government.

January 2023

Letter from the Alliance **to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Francisco Cali Tzay**, in connection with his upcoming **fact-finding mission to Canada**. The Alliance pointed out Canada's negative role in dealing with Indigenous Peoples and its disregard for UN rules and recommendations. The letter was accompanied by a compilation of numerous massive criticisms of Canada's indigenous policy by various UN bodies, compiled by AKIN.

February 2023

Transfer of the remaining amount of € 650,- from Stefan Yazzie's fundraising project to the **Navajo Relief Fund Nation** (Covid consequences).

Visit to the "**Indian Inuit North America Film Festival**" in Stuttgart together with representatives of other member organizations of the "European Alliance for the Self-Determination of Indigenous Peoples". Action by the "European Alliance" for the release of the political prisoner Leonard Peltier, who has been in US prisons for 48 years, on the occasion of the "North America Film Festival: "Indians and Inuit" in Stuttgart.

Letter from the Alliance and forwarding of a press release to the **US Ambassador to Austria, Victoria Reggie Kennedy, and the Austrian Embassy in the USA** to lobby President Biden for the pardon and release of Leonard Peltier.

April 2023

Participation of Gawan Maringer in the 22nd session of the "**United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**" at the UN in New York. Advocacy and support work for indigenous representatives on the ground.

June 2023

Facebook Posting on **Oglala Commemoration Day** on June 26th. Repeated appeal by the Alliance to US President Biden for the pardon and release of political prisoner Leonard Peltier, who has been imprisoned for 48 years.

September 2023

Facebook post: On **Leonard Peltier's 79th birthday**, the Working Group Indians of North America, together with the other partner organizations of the "European Alliance for the Self-Determination of Indigenous Peoples", expresses solidarity with the longest imprisoned Indigenous political prisoner.

Alliance protest letter to French President Macron and other French politicians in connection with the **forced eviction of the Kali'na** from the village of Pros-périté in north-western French Guiana due to planned "development" projects.

- October 2023 Facebook post on **Orange Shirt Day in Canada** (October 10th), which commemorates the thousands of indigenous boarding school students killed in Canada.
- A "half" meeting of the "European Alliance for the Self-Determination of Indigenous Peoples" in Beromünster/Switzerland on the occasion of the **conference "Indigenous North America. Voices from an almost lost world"** on October 28th, 2023. In addition to the Alliance members Monika Seiller (AGIM), Helena Nyberg (Incomindios), Peter Schwarzbauer (AKIN), Rita May Fenton (Ojibwe, Ontario/Canada), Mike Metatawabin (Cree, Ontario/Canada), Louise Thomas (Cree, Alberta/Canada) were present.
- November 2023 Uploading an Alliance **submission to the US Bureau of Land Management platform in support of the Gwich'in of Alaska against oil drilling and extraction** in areas where caribou calve – the livelihood of the Gwich'in.
- December 2023 Co-signing by AKIN and the Alliance of an appeal to Members of the EU Parliament, drafted by the advocacy Initiative Raw Material Coalition and European Trade Justice Coalition, **in connection with the mining of lithium on indigenous territory in Chile** for the "green" transition/economy in Europe.
- Letter from the Alliance to the Canadian Minister, Gary Anandasangaree (Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada), calling for more decisive action to be taken **against violence against indigenous women and girls.**

Media work/Press releases/Press reports

- February-November 2023 Regular contact with the German journalist **Rebecca Hillauer**, who has produced several programs on the radio station Ö1, resulting in several programs about the Lakota, especially on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Wounded Knee II. She has also published articles on her website about contacts with Lakota people.
- May-October 2023 Intensive contact with the Austrian journalist **Sabine Nikolay**, who produced two short reports on Indigenous Peoples' Day and a four-part program on "The Fate of the Indigenous Peoples of North America" on the radio station Ö1 (see below). AKIN provided her with a great deal of support in finding topics and making contact with interview partners.
- 10/12/2023: October 12th used to be "Columbus Day" and was renamed "Indigenous Peoples' Day" some time ago. 2x 2 minutes 30 seconds contribution under "Contemporary Knowledge" on the topic of the necessary ratification of Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization (ILO) on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by Austria (Ö1, Guten Morgen Österreich, 2 min. 30; 07.30 a.m.).
- 10/16-19/2023: 4-part program "The Fate of the Indigenous Peoples of North America" (Ö1, Radiokolleg, 25 minutes each, 09.25 a.m.).
- 02/06/2023 Alliance press release: Indigenous political prisoner **Leonard Peltier** begins his 48th year in US custody on February 6th
- 06/27/2023 Alliance press release: "50th anniversary of the occupation of Wounded Knee 1973 (USA). Indians are still waiting for justice".
- 08/09/2023 Press release: **International Day of Indigenous Peoples**. Includes a special appeal to the Austrian Federal Government to ratify or support the ratification of ILO 169 and not to develop and implement any energy projects that disregard or jeopardize the rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- 11/25/2023 Alliance press release: **16 days against violence against women** – thousands of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls in the USA and Canada.
- 12/09/2023 Alliance press release: "**Climate Justice for Indigenous Peoples** – Global Action Day Against Climate Injustice"

Articles written for the AKIN website (<https://www.arbeitskreis-indianer.at/artikel/>)

February 2023	AKIN: 50 th anniversary of the occupation of Wounded Knee (<i>50. Jahrestag der Besetzung von Wounded Knee</i>)
March 2023	Schwarzbauer, P.: "The Voice of the Lakota Nation – 40 Jahre KILI Radio" (<i>"The Voice of the Lakota Nation – 40 years KILI Radio"</i>)
April 2023	Nyberg, H.: "People are like trees, Indigenous knowledge – a way out of the crisis" – book review. New edition of the classic book about the people and wisdom of the Hopi, Mohawk and Sioux. Author: Alexander Buschenreiter (Incomindios Schweiz) (<i>Menschen sind wie Bäume, Indigenes Wissen – ein Weg aus der Krise – Buchbesprechung. Neuauflage des Klassikers über Volk und Weisheiten der Hopi, Mohawk und Sioux. Autor: Alexander Buschenreiter</i>) Seiller, M. und Schwarzbauer, P.: „Warrior Woman“ – movie night on April 29, 2023 in Vienna (AKIN und AGIM) (<i>Warrior Woman – Filmabend am 29. April 2023 in Wien</i>)
July 2023	Maringer, G.: The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 2023 (New York). A prestigious opening full of expressions of solidarity in the shadow of considerable contradictions (<i>Das UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 2023 (New York). Eine prestigeträchtige Eröffnung voller Solidaritätsbekundungen im Schatten erheblicher Widersprüche</i>)
August 2023	Schiefer, M.: US Indians – under the sign of resistance. Book review. Author: Bernd Wegener (<i>Indianer der USA – im Zeichen des Widerstands. Buchrezension. Autor: Bernd Wegener</i>)
December 2023	Cali Tzay, JF; Lightfoot, Sh.; Mejia Montalvo, DJ.: Indigenous Peoples are not local communities! (Translation Schiefer, M. and Maringer, G.) (<i>Indigene Völker sind keine lokale Gemeinschaften! (Übersetzung Schiefer, M. und Maringer, G.)</i>)

Events

April 2023	To mark 50 years of the occupation of Wounded Knee in South Dakota (Pine Ridge Reservation of the Oglala Lakota) by the American Indian Movement (AIM) and local traditional Oglala Lakota in 1973, the Megaplex Gasometer, in cooperation with AKIN, screened the film <i>Warrior Woman</i> – the portrait of Madonna Thunder Hawk (Lakota/Sioux) and the special role and strength of indigenous women. Followed by a discussion with Lakota representatives connected via Zoom: Yvette Running Horse Collin, Loretta Afraid of Bear and AKIN honorary member Milo Yellow Hair. The proceeds of € 570 were donated to the director of the film, Elisabeth Castle, for the "Warrior Women" project.
June 2023	Lecture by Peter Schwarzbauer in three classes of the high-school (BRG/BORG) St. Pölten on the topic: Indians of North America – still a fight for survival (<i>Indianer Nordamerikas – immer noch ein Kampf ums Überleben</i>)

Indigenous visits

Unfortunately there were no physical visits to AKIN by Indigenous People in 2023.

Miscellaneous

Participation in the so-called "**Volunteer Fair**", October 7th and 8th 2023 for potential recruitment of activists. We are still looking for volunteers regarding the following topics:

- Facebook Editor
- Project coordinator for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
- Research / Documentation for Divest Campaign

Details in our Website: <https://www.arbeitskreis-indianer.at/mitarbeit/>

Regular distribution of the **newsletter** by e-mail to all interested parties registered on our homepage: News of current events and new articles on our website about the situation of Indigenous Peoples of North America. **Regular posts and links** of current articles and videos on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/arbeitskreisindianer/>).



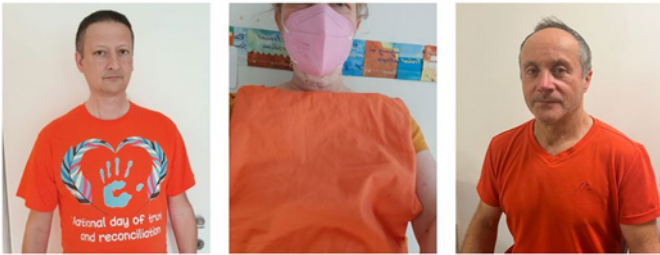
Action by the "European Alliance for the Self-Determination of Indigenous Peoples" for the release of the political prisoner Leonard Peltier, who has been in US prisons for 48 years, on the occasion of the "North American Film Festival: Indians and Inuit" in Stuttgart



Madonna Thunder Hawk and Marcy Gilbert, the main protagonists in the movie "Warrior Women"



Every child matters.



Facebook post for Orange Shirt Day in Canada



Free Leonard Peltier: Solidarity with the longest imprisoned indigenous political prisoner