

Activity Report 2024

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

Support for Europe-wide **campaigns for the release of Leonard Peltier**, a political prisoner who has been imprisoned for 48 years

Interviews with Native American representatives from North America regarding the **use of the term "Indian."**

Organizational activities

March 2024

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 2024

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 2024

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 took place throughout the year, where AKIN representatives participated.

Campaigns/Protest actions

January-
December 2024

Continuation of activities for the **ratification of ILO Convention 169 on the rights of indigenous peoples** by Austria in cooperation with legal anthropologist Dr. René Kuppe. After decades of efforts by various NGOs, the convention was ratified by Germany in June 2021. Dr. Kuppe had also closely accompanied this process in Germany. An "ILO 169 Austria Coordination Group," which formally comprises nine NGOs from the fields of development policy, environment/climate, church, and human rights, is beginning to crumble due to massive headwinds from politics and business, and also because the Greens were not particularly committed to this issue due to the dominance of the ÖVP in the government. The meetings of the active members of the coordination group took place about once a month.

January 2024

Meeting between AKIN (as part of the ILO 169 Austria Coordination Group) and Johannes Hangler, the expert responsible for the **EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)** at the Ministry of Agriculture. The main focus was on finding out the status of concrete implementation. The implementation of the EUDR would mean strong support for the rights of indigenous peoples. Although already decided by the EU bodies, implementation by member states within the EU (including Austria) is being delayed or attempts are being made to water down the contents of the EUDR.

March 2024

Co-signing (by both AKIN and the European Alliance) of a call initiated by the Climate & Energy Program - Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) to the member states of the Council of Europe to protect the **right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment through an additional protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights**.

April 2024

Letters from AKIN and the European Alliance to the **US Parole Commission** requesting the release on parole of **Leonard Peltier**, a political prisoner who has been incarcerated for 49 years.

Gawan Maringer participates in the **23rd 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 2024

Critical commentary by AKIN chairman Peter Schwarzbauer on the **"fact check" of the EU Deforestation Regulation** carried out by several NGOs. Problem: The EUDR is intended for deforestation where it occurs on a large scale and is therefore also relevant to our ambitions regarding the rights of indigenous peoples. However, it also affects European primary producers when they place their products on the market (which currently involves a considerable amount of bureaucracy).

July 2024

Co-signing (both by AKIN and the European Alliance) of an **open letter** from Amnesty International Canada to the Premier of British Columbia, David Eby, **against the criminalization of the Wet'suwet'en land defenders**, who have been resisting for years the construction of a gas pipeline by the Canadian-based company Coastal GasLink, which runs through their ancestral territory and to which they have never consented.

Participation of the European Alliance (Peter Schwarzbauer [AKIN and European Alliance Chair], Helena Nyberg [Incomindios], and Monika Seiller [AGIM]) in the meeting of the **UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)** in Geneva. Advocacy and support work for friendly indigenous representatives on site.

- October 2024 Appeal to the German President, Chancellor, Foreign Minister, Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid, and members of the Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid, calling on President Biden to **pardon political prisoner Leonard Peltier during US President Joe Biden's visit to Berlin.**
- December 2024 Another meeting between AKIN (as part of the ILO 169 Austria coordination group) and Johannes Hangler, the expert responsible for the **EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)** at the Ministry of Agriculture. The meeting focused on postponing implementation, as the formal requirements had not yet been met. At that point, the discussion within the EU was only about postponement, not watering down the regulation.

Media work/Press releases/Press reports

- March 4th 2024 Article in the Kleine Zeitung newspaper by Severin Dringel about the numerous **murders in the Osage tribe** following massive oil discoveries in their territory. The media interest and the article were triggered by Martin Scorsese's Oscar-nominated feature film "Killers of the Flower Moon." The article also included an interview with AKIN chairman Peter Schwarzbauer.
- July 5th 2024 Press release from the European Alliance in response to the **U.S. Parole Commission's rejection of the release of indigenous activist Leonard Peltier** on July 2nd, 2024.
- July 8th -12th 2024 Interviews at the UN in Geneva with two high-ranking Native American representatives from North America on the **use of the term "Indian"**: Kenneth Deer (Mohawk; member of the Haudenosaunee Committee [Confederacy of the Six Nations/Iroquois Confederacy] for International Relations); Willie (Wilton) Littlechild (Cree; Chief of the Confederation of Treaty 6 First Nations, who has held countless high-ranking positions in various indigenous institutions in Canada and, above all, at the UN. Among other things, he was a member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues). Not only do both of them have no problem with the term "Indian," but they also support us in continuing to use it. These interviews, together with others, form the basis for an article in our website.
- August 6th 2024 Press release: **International Day of Indigenous Peoples**. Specifically calls for indigenous "peoples" and "local populations" not to be equated, as these terms are not only linguistically different, but also have different legal and political meanings.
- September 3rd 2024 Joint press release from the "European Alliance" and the "Europe for Peltier Coalition". This underscores the numerous and politically significant national and international requests and demands made to US President Biden to **pardon 80-year-old Leonard Peltier**, who is seriously ill, so that he can spend the rest of his life with his family.
- September 6th 2024 Interview with long-time activist and AKIN honorary member Milo Yellowhair (Oglala Lakota) on the **use of the term "Indian"**. He also has no problem with the use of the term "Indian" and is annoyed that an organization like AKIN, which has been advocating for Indians for decades, is getting into trouble for using the term. This interview will also be included in the article for our website.

Articles written for the AKIN website (www.akin-group.org/)

- January 2024 Leon Kaulahao Siu (Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Hawaii): The Kingdom of Hawaii – still a sovereign nation (translation by Peter Schwarzbauer and Gawan Maringer) (*Das Königreich Hawaii – immer noch eine souveräne Nation*)
- March 2024 Tim K. Erkert: Comanchería – an Indian empire in the American Southwest (*Comanchería – ein indianisches Empire im amerikanischen Südwesten*)

- April 2024 Monika Seiller (AGIM): Killers of the Flower Moon – no Oscar for Lily Gladstone (*Killers of the Flower Moon – kein Oscar für Lily Gladstone*)
- August 2024 Kenneth Deer: Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Confederacy): International travel with their own passports (translation and partial additions [terminology] Peter Schwarzbauer and Helena Nyberg) (*Haudenosaunee (Irokesen-Konföderation): Internationale Reisen mit eigenen Pässen*)
- November 2024 Gawan Maringer: Limited self-determination for indigenous peoples? — The 23rd meeting of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) (*Bedingte Selbstbestimmung Indigener Völker? — Das 23. Treffen des UN Per-manent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)*)

Events

- June 19th 2024 Lecture by Peter Schwarzbauer on the topic “Native Americans – still fighting for survival” at the Vienna Karl May Round Table in Café Ministerium
- June 29th -30th 2024 Südwind Street Festival. Although AKIN had been present at the Südwind Street Festival for years with an information table, **we were excluded from participating** this time. The reason: we use the **term "Indian"** in our association name (see also the articles on our website: "7 reasons why we use the term "Indian" [<https://www.akin-group.org/indianer-7-gruende-warum-wir-den-begriff-verwenden/>] and the new one "May you still say 'Indian'? [www.akin-group.org/indianer-darf-man-das-noch-sagen/]).
- September 9th 2024 **Workshop organized by AKIN with Cree representatives from the James Bay and Hudson Bay region** (Jackie Hookimaw, Norbert Witt, and Elder Ed Sutherland) in the seminar room at Breitenseer Straße 39/2, 1140 Vienna. The Cree representatives wanted to know what support AKIN could offer. The reason for their visit to Vienna was to participate in the VANDA (Vienna Anthropology Days) conference, where they also gave presentations on residential schools and the threat of resource exploitation in their area.
- September 28th -29th 2024 AKIN Chairman Peter Schwarzbauer attended the 50th anniversary celebration of partner organization Incomindios Switzerland in Zurich. Other partner organizations of the European Alliance were also present at this event.

Indigenous visits

In September 2024, a Cree delegation from Canada visited us (see events above).

Miscellaneous

We recently changed our web address to: www.akin-group.org/ ; email: office@akin-group.org

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 (www.facebook.com/arbeitskreisindianer/)

In April 2024, AKIN supported Dr. Doerthe Rosenow (International Relations - King's College London) in her **research** on contacts between Native Americans/AIM and the German/German-speaking peace and environmental movement in the 1980s.

Occasional support for students in writing pre-scientific papers on the topic of “Indians” for their high school graduation exams.



The Iroquois Deskaheh, great-grandson of Deskaheh, who first attempted to speak before the League of Nations (predecessor of the UN) in 1923, Monika Seiller (AGIM) and Peter Schwarzbauer (AKIN) in Geneva. On the right is the passport used by the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Confederacy) for international travel.



Interviews with Kenneth Deer (Mohawk, left) and Willie Littlechild (Cree, right) on the use of the term "Indian" at the UN Expert Meeting on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Geneva.



Greetings to Leonard Peltier on his 80th birthday



50th anniversary of our partner organization Incomindios in Zurich



AKIN-Workshop with Jackie Hookimaw, Ed Sutherland and Norbert Witt