

Treaty Now

Introduction by MC

Yingiya Balyunmirr Ga

Declaration of the Yolŋu Nations Assembly

Ŋarra ga dhuwal dhayunmirr ga ŋoy-miŋmiŋ'thun bili ŋarra ga dhuwal ŋayatham ŋarrakal ŋayaŋuy ga liyay ga rumbalyu, nhä Waŋarrayu gurrupar Djaŋkawuwal ga Baramawal. Waŋarrayu ŋunhi ŋayi bokmanayŋu ga ŋula yol mimay' nhänhamiriw.

Ŋarra ga nhakun rulaŋdhun dhärukmirr'yaman nhanukal milma Waŋarrwal ŋunhi ŋayi mimay ŋula yol, ŋunhi ŋayi gurrupur limurrŋgal dhuwal wäŋa yolŋuwal, ga gurrupar ŋayi nhakun maŋdaŋgal Djaŋ'kawuwal ga gurrupar ŋayi djaŋkawuwal, nhä malany maḍayin rom? Nhämunha ga ŋayi mala yirritjaw gurrupar Baramawal.

Dhiyaŋ bala ŋarra ga djäma goŋ-ŋal'yun Dhuyu-djorralil Waŋarrwal milma ŋunhi limurr ga garrarrakthuna marrtjin. Garrarrakthuna limurr ga marrtjin yakan limurr dhu roŋiyirr bulu, ŋuli limurr dhu gärril nhälil marilil, gärril limurr dhu. Ŋunhi limurr dhu burakirr, limurr dhu burakirr dhiyaŋ bala limurr ga djäma nhanukal milma goŋ-ŋal'yun ŋarra ga nhanukal scripture-lil ŋunhi nhanŋu ga dhäruk ŋorra yuwalk yan. Ga märr-yuwalk ŋarra ga marrtjin gäman ŋarrakuwuy yolŋuny malany dhuwal gali'ŋur luŋgurrmaŋur East ga central ga West Arnhem Land.

There is no more turning back.

We declare that we have not been conquered.

We declare that to this day we are a sovereign people.

We declare that we are subject to our Maḍayin system of law constituted by the Unseen Creator of the Universe and revealed to the Givers of Law:- Djaŋ'kawu and Barama, and we continue to steward this system through our lawful authorities and government.

Our Maḍayin system of law establishes Mägayamirr- peace, order, and good government; is dhapirrk consistant in its statutes; and is assented to by all Yolŋu citizens through the Waŋa Lupthun assent ceremony.

Our Maḍayin system of law is guarded by the Yothu Yindi separation of powers.

Our Maḍayin system of law is a rule of law not a rule of man.

Our Maḍayin system of law is the equal of any other system of law.

Film: N̄arra' Rom

When Yolngu Nations Assembly speak about a treaty we want:

1. A space of our own,..... free from interference from colonial governments,..... so that we have the freedom and scope to live, think, and develop in a way that suits ourselves.
2. We want the Australian Government to recognise our Maḍayin system of law.

The most practical way to achieve this is by declaring Arnhem Land a state within the Federation of Australia..... under the jurisdiction of the Maḍayin system of law.

Australia can do this now, without constitutional change.

Since the Intervention was introduced in the Northern Territory in 2007 our Maḍayin law and governance is being pushed aside.

The result is that our leaders, the lawmen and lawwomen,.....

the Djirrikaymirr, the Daḷkarramirr and the Goḅ-gaḅmirr....

are being disempowered...

We are being left to become dependent and weak, forced to accept the priorities of outsiders....

Our young are tempted to conform (becoming without souls) or to just fall away under the strain....

Since the Intervention we have experienced the highest rates of imprisonment and suicide ever!

Since the beginning of the Intervention in the Northern Territory:

- Our people are now locked up at a rate of 6 times that of black men under apartheid South Africa.
- The youth detention centre in Darwin is now 98% Indigenous.
- Domestic and family violence has increased
- Suicide and self harm has increased
- Child malnutrition has increased
- And child removals are again destroying our communities

We actually have no choice. It is self-determination and self-governance..... Or it is poverty, exile, chains and death - the life of convicts.

The process of colonisation must be halted.

We need a treaty.