



# MUIR REPORT: MODEST PROPOSALS AND TOUGH SELLS

**Kim Kardashian visited the White House** last week, might we say the Ass visited the Ass? Since we cannot get a wedding cake with two grooms on top, what next for these idiots, banning the sale of fruitcake?

**San Francisco has set up an Occupy campsite** in front of the Immigration Center on Washington and Sansome street. There are currently around 100 people conducting a vigil there. Kudos to all the Humboldt residents who made it down to the city to demonstrate and contribute to the 12,000 dollar bail used to release Claudia Portillo, arrested for the dubious offense of reporting to immigration officials. Don't mess with Humboldt County. Mr. President....., this place is full of educated, caring people who will fight you at every turn.

**It wasn't that long ago people were saying black people don't work enough**, now we are saying brown people work too much, make up your mind. When most of us think of our Latino neighbors, we don't see MS13 murderers, armed to the teeth and bent on destroying civilization, that's the president's job. We

see a kindly man with a pair of vine clippers in his back pocket, a wife who brings us tamales on holidays with her well-behaved children in tow. Most of these separated families are CHRISTIAN; the pope himself, (the direct voice from God) says family separation is wrong. But, rest assured, the guards in these camps are given special instructions not to hug or touch the children as it might be misconstrued as child abuse. **HUH!?**

**This is going to be a tough sell** trying to make us think of these hard working, God fearing people, as the devil's children. What sort of sense does it make to abolish an underpaid source of labor? That's where fortunes are made, right, all you house flippers and pot farmers out there.

**If we were really interested in economic impact**, let's study the devastating effects of granting tens of thousands of H1 visas to people from overseas who theoretically can do things we Americans can't. These visas are a sneaky way to turn \$100,000 a year jobs into \$50,000 a year jobs and have a captive work force, who cannot strike for fear of being sent back home. For the jobs that truly need a special person, invest in schools so we can turn them out here.

**Someone making \$10 an hour** isn't a threat to anyone, their whole and only crime is being poor. If they were wealthy, they could buy a house for cash, as a parking place for their money and render yet another living quarters unusable, while Americans flounder in the streets, unable to afford the inflated prices overseas investments bring.

**If cash can move freely over borders**, labor should be able to move just as freely. Money has more rights than humans. Perhaps, this latest atrocity of separating children from their parents is enough to motivate we armchair liberals into finally realizing the Democratic Party represents wealthy people who own stock in different companies than the Republicans. I don't have an ax to grind with the Trump regime, but it seems every time they take something over, they strip it of even the slightest modicum of joy.

**As for the homeless**, they are now officially referred to as the "**unsheltered**". All the sanctimonious babble about a federal, state and community answer to the problem is going the same way as the Supreme Court. I have a modest proposal. Treat these people with the same compassion you treat animals in the pound. There are many well-tended camps springing up all over towns, carefully laid out tent cities complete with portable toilets and garbage cans. You can go to one of these settlements and peruse the occupants, much the same as going to the local pound. There are plenty of well groomed, affectionate house trained people who just want a safe place to pitch their tent and not be harassed by police or thieves. You can view them in their natural habitat and much like a trip to the shelter, after a huge disaster, the place is packed with gorgeous specimens. Pick one, or a couple, who don't want to be separated, have them come home with you as a foster and see if they work out. What have you got to lose?

**-Muir Walker**



## the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth

During the Assembly meeting May 25th, the **Sami** Parliament decided to support the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth. The Declaration includes the right of Mother Earth and her beings to life and existence, respect, to regenerate its biocapacity and to continue its vital cycles and processes free from human disruptions. **The Sami people** are a Finno-Ugric indigenous people inhabiting **Sápmi**, which today encompasses large parts of **Norway** and **Sweden**, northern parts of **Finland**, and the Murmansk Oblast of **Russia**.

The Sami, like many other indigenous peoples, have everyday experiences of how climate change hits directly for example reindeer husbandry. Their traditional ways of life is hard-pressed between climate change and exploitative mining projects and forestry. The parliamentary motion was written by Marie Persson Njajta together with Mona Persson, members of the Sami Parliament. It was signed by several other members. Marie Persson Njajta hopes that the decision gives power to the discussion on how Rights of Nature can be implemented on local, national and global level.

This is a very important decision, says Marie Persson Njajta. We wrote it for our children and the possibilities for coming generations to live a good life. We believe a paradigm shift is needed towards a view where humans understand ourselves as part of nature, which is the way indigenous people relate to nature. We, the Sami people, believe that we belong to the land, not the other way around. Today we see how a colonial perspective, exploitation, and climate change threaten our culture. And it is not just us; it is a global issue. Governments and corporations don't take these problems seriously, but disregard indigenous rights. The decision to support the Universal Declaration for the Rights of Mother Earth is a statement against the shortsightedness of governmental policy and the failing view that corporations have rights while nature does not.

The decision of the Sami Parliament is a vital step in strengthening the Rights of Nature framework, says Pella Larsdotter Thiel, from the Rights of Nature network in Sweden.



Sweden has a high profile internationally in sustainability issues, but like other countries, we systematically deplete and impoverish our ecosystems. It is very encouraging that the Sami people in Sweden, like indigenous peoples in other parts of the world, take the lead in this necessary shift in how we view nature; from a resource for humans to a living whole we participate in.

The Declaration was first presented at the World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth in Bolivia, which in 2010 gathered more than 35,000 people from over 100 countries. It has since been presented to the

UN General Assembly, and over 800,000 people have signed for the UN to adopt the declaration. Cormac Cullinan, lawyer and spokesperson for Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature who led the drafting of the Declaration, welcomes the historic decision of the Sami Parliament.

By endorsing the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth, the Parliament and the Sami people have joined forces with the many indigenous peoples, local communities, organizations and people throughout the world who are working together to reawaken consumerist societies to the reality that our first duty as human beings is to recognize and respect the rights of every member of the Earth community to play their unique role in that community. The Sami have never forgotten to be grateful and respectful to Nature for giving us life – by supporting the Declaration they are signaling their commitment to reminding all who have forgotten that our future depends on giving effective legal protection to the whole Earth community.

This year sees the 10th anniversary of the first major decision on Nature's Rights, Ecuador included Rights of Nature in its constitution in 2008. The framework is now spreading rapidly with decisions about rivers, forests and mountains as legal subjects in, among others, the New Zealand Parliament, the Supreme Court of Colombia and the Supreme Court of the Indian State of Uttarpradesh.

**-Rights of Nature Sweden [intercontinentalcry.org](http://intercontinentalcry.org)**

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