

Michael Lujan Bevacqua  
Testimony  
March 17, 2017

Buenas yan Håfa Adai. Hu agradezi i chansa para bei ekungok i ginefpå'go yan i minangge na diniskuti guini på'go. Ti bei kuentos apmãm. Hu sapopotte i Resolusion put i kao para ta apela i diniside-ña si Tydingco-Gatewood annai ha aguiguiyi si Dave Davis ya ha kefunas i direcho-ta komo taotao.

Annai hu hungok put i diniside-ña i hues, gi minagahet ti nina'manman yu'. Hunggan, na'desgãnao yu', lao ti na'manman.

Anggen ta gof atan i hestoriã-ña i Estådos Unidos, fihu hu tuge', gi Fino' Ingles, na i lugåt ligåt, the legal place, para i mannatibu gi sanlagu. Kalang un maze gi Fino' Ingles. Gi Fino' Chamorro ilek-mãmami yan i famagu'on-hu, "fanabak'an." It's a place where you get lost.

And so, anggen un atan i hestoriã-ña i mannatibu Amerikånu siha yan siña lokkue' i eksperiãnsia-ña i taotao gi CNMI put federalization yan todou ayu siha, gof annok na este lugåt ligåt, the legal place para i mannatibu un fanabak'an, ya guaha fanhalum'an, lao tåya' fanhuyong'an. There's always an entrance lao there's never an exit.

Mafå'tinas este na lugåt, este na fanabak'an, anggen un atan kolo'lo'ña i Marshall Cases gi sanlagu. Annai manhålom i mannatibu manggaidirecho, manggaisovereignty, lao i fanabak'an, the legal maze, ha chule' ayu siha, todou ayu siha ya ha nå'i siha tåtte ni' dependency, domestic dependency, territoriality yan colonialism, todou enao siha. And so, para Guahu, ti na'manman na ti manggãna hit nai gi kotte, gi kotten Federåt.

Lao malago' yu' na bei echo i sinangan-ñiha dos na malate'ña kinu Guahu na taotao, si Mike Phillips yan si Robert Underwood, guini på'go annai ma sångan na i bali-ña este, i apela, ti put kao para ta fanggãna, sa' gi minagahet, este na sistem mafå'tinas kontra hita, it is stacked completely against us. Gi Fino' Ingles, it is designed to remove our rights and our claims, not to protect them.

Gof annok este gi diniside-ña si Tydingco-Gatewood. Kumuentos si Julian Aguon ya didok, tomtom gof malåte', gof maolek iyo-ña arguments. Lao si Tydingco-Gatewood ha yute' todou ayu siha, ya ilek-ña este i constitution, este na amendment yan todou este siha.

Lao gof ya-hu i sinangån-ña guini si Mike Phillips annai ilek-ña, just because it is unconstitutional it does not mean its immoral. Or just because guaha un hues ya ilek-ña, pat ha diside na unconstitutional pat inorganic este, it does not mean that it is not right.

And so debi di ta hassuyi este. Gi sinangån-ña si Robert Underwood, even if we don't win, para hita gi halom ayu na fanabak'an, those of us stuck inside the maze of colonialism, the native maze of domestic dependency, tåya' fitme put i direcho-ta pat i lugåt-ta. We have nothing that is very firm about our position. Lao we do have spaces where we can voice our opinion and tell our story.

Put hemplo, kada såkkan, siña manhånao hit para i United Nations. Ya hunggan, buente tåya' hiniyong kada såkkan ginen i United Nations, lao manå'i hit ni' ayu na lugåt para ta sångan, para ta sangåni i mundo ni' estoriå-ta.

And so este na kasu lokkue'. You know, na'triste annai hu taitai i disision-ña si Tydingo-Gatewood. Sa' anggen ta tulaika didide' i hestoria ni' ha u'usa para u diside este na case, siña matulaika todú.

Bei sångan este gi Fino' Ingles, sa' kumuekuentos yu' put i tinitihon-ña i Estådos Unidos. When you think about what the United States was supposed to be founded upon and ideals and such like that. It is very fascinating how those ideals evaporate when it comes to the colonies, except in the name of depriving the people in the colonies the very things those founding fathers were fighting for.

It is unfortunate, but expected. And so every place that we can tell our story, to try to get the United States, the rest of the world or even our own people here to understand, this is not about the US constitution. As one of the Senators up there, who I was talking to the other day, Senator Esteve said, the US constitution may be the law of the land, but it is not the law of the world. And you shouldn't assume that for colonized people the constitution should apply like that, the more that we can convince the United States, our own people and the world of that and to see us as we really are. Not America in the making, as a territory becoming, always being included and becoming a fuller part of the United States, but as a colony, that needs to make a choice about what we want next.

Si Yu'us Ma'åse ta'lo para este na oppotunidåt.