

DEFENDING LAND AND WAY OF LIFE – GRASSY NARROWS

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN
ONTARIO, CANADA

A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT
IS A HUMAN RIGHT

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



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'EVERYTHING AROUND US WAS DISAPPEARING... THE CLEAN WATER, OUR WAY OF LIFE, OUR TRADITIONS, EVEN THE WILD RICE PICKING AND BLUEBERRY PICKING WERE ALL DISAPPEARING. IT'S ALL CONNECTED TO THE LAND.'

Judy DaSilva, Grassy Narrows

The Indigenous community of Grassy Narrows in north-western Ontario, Canada, has been pushed to the brink of destruction by the actions of governments and corporations. Their lands have been flooded, the community relocated and their waters badly contaminated. For more than a decade, the community has been fighting against large-scale, clear-cut logging on their traditional lands. They fear their way of life cannot survive the destruction of the land and loss of habitat this type of logging leaves in its wake.

In 2008, the Ontario provincial authorities entered into talks with Grassy Narrows over how the forest should be managed. But the province made no commitment to stop clear-cutting while a new forest management system is being negotiated. The people of Grassy Narrows continue to call for a moratorium on further large-scale industrial development on their lands.

TAKE ACTION NOW

Please sign and send this postcard to the Premier of Ontario, Dalton McGuinty.

Visit our website for more information at www.amnesty.ca/grassy_narrows

Image: Wood stockpiled during the height of logging at Grassy Narrows. © Amnesty International

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Dear Premier McGuinty,

The people of Grassy Narrows have suffered many injustices. Their culture and way of life have been pushed to the brink of destruction. Your government has a responsibility to work with the people of Grassy Narrows to ensure that their rights are respected.

Until an agreement is reached over the management of the Grassy Narrows traditional territory, the Government of Ontario must ensure that there is no further erosion of their human rights and their way of life.

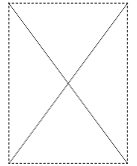
Until a forest management agreement is reached with the free, prior and informed consent of the community, I urge the Province of Ontario to respect the moratorium called by the people of Grassy Narrows.

Yours faithfully,

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Country: _____



The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
M7A 1A1

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Image: Grassy Narrows traditional lands. © Amnesty International
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