

**Where is the Justice? Where is the Truth?
Where is the Reconciliation?**
Ryan Kelly Osecap (a.k.a. Sittingbear)

My name is Ryan Kelly Osecap. My spirit name is “Sittingbear” and I am a 37 year old Plains Cree Indian from the Moosomin First Nation. I am currently being held captive by the Canadian Justice System and so many of my ‘Human Rights’ have been violated that I no longer feel safe in the custody of this Government. I was arrested three times this year, simply walking down the street on my way to the store. All levels of this Government are ignoring these violations as well because it passed through the hands of my lawyer, to the prosecutor then presented to the judge. Now, I have to sit in here until next year to prove my innocence even with the overwhelming evidence of “systemic racism” that all forms of this Government had in front of them. Where is the Justice? Where is the Truth? Where is the Reconciliation?

For the past two decades I have been trapped in this “almost impossible to break” cycle created by a Government who did not see my people as equals. How can there ever be any Truth and Reconciliation with my people when we are still to this day experiencing overcrowding in these ‘Correctional Centres’ where, by the way, there is little to no ‘correction’ in them whatsoever. In my opinion, these ‘Correctional Facilities’ all across Canada are nothing more than modern-day Residential Schools designed to warehouse my people rather than rehabilitate us in any way. Myles Sanderson is a prime example of how the Canadian Justice System failed not only him, but us as Indigenous people. Yes, he did have a lengthy criminal history but answer me this people: how many times did this corrupt system try to help him? I can probably answer that question best because in my 20 years of captivity I have never once been offered treatment as an alternative to remand even though I am supposed to be ‘innocent until proven guilty’. Where is the Justice? Where is the Truth? Where is the Reconciliation?

The Canadian Government needs to take immediate action to reconstruct this outdated, very badly broken justice system of theirs. I am a part of a ‘lost generation’ who finds it very difficult, as an Indigenous man, to walk down the street without being harassed by the RCMP / city police. To make matters worse, the Crown prosecutors turn a blind eye to our ‘Charter of Rights’ being violated in exchange for sleazy guilty pleas. I am tired of the ‘systemic racism’ that has become the new norm in my community where it is okay for the RCMP / city police to kidnap my people off the street and

forcibly confine us into these Captivity Camps. Then there is the treatment Indigenous people get while in these Camps, which is equivalent to the treatment of suspected terrorists in Guantanamo Bay. Where is the Justice? Where is the Truth? Where is the Reconciliation?

The Canadian Government's answer to our inter-generational trauma is to hire more cops and build more jails, rather than hire more community support workers and build more treatment centres. This prolonged incarceration that my people have been subject to has had a significant impact on our social and cultural lives. When I look out my window, I see the construction of a new unit taking place and it breaks my heart because that means that this corrupt system is thriving. While Indigenous people are roughly 5% of Canada's total population, in my 20 years of captivity, the Indigenous population represent the majority of those inside of these facilities in the prairie region. It seems to be higher in Saskatchewan though because I have been on three ranges inside of the so-called Saskatoon Correctional Centre and the Indigenous population in here is more like 90% so that makes me wonder how truthful this Government is being with us. Where is the Justice? Where is the Truth? Where is the Reconciliation?

In terms of the path forward, the death of the 'Queen' should mean the death of systemic slavery and the Doctrine of Discovery ideology as well. The continued domination and dehumanization of my people has been going on for too long so I ask the new 'King' to do what is right, and free my people once and for all. I also ask him to grant 'pardons' to anyone and everyone who fell victim to the Queen's racist regime. Please your Royal Highness, work with my people to reconstruct this justice system because it is long overdue and it is necessary to build a positive relationship with us. I refuse to sit Idle No More while this corrupt Government continues to take advantage of my people. Where is the Justice? Where is the Truth? Where is the Reconciliation?

In conclusion, I am asking the Canadian Government to not only restore my freedom, but restore my faith in this justice system as well. I was denied bail on 6 September 2022 due to all of my 'failure to comply' convictions when in reality, those are all cries for help that are going unanswered. I call upon the Canadian Government to offer more help to remand prisoners because a large majority of these men I am currently in this captivity camp with are men with mental health issues and addictions with absolutely no access to any treatment what-so-ever. I challenge an un-corrupted lawyer

to take one look at my file, including the charges I am going up on now, because I guarantee, without a doubt, you will be left shocked, wondering where is the Justice? Where is the Truth? Where is the Reconciliation? A wise man once told me about our fight with the justice system, noting: "It's a losing battle, but I'll never stop fighting". So, with that being said, I will end this with a verse from the Bible, In Habakkuk 1:4 it says: "The law has become paralyzed, and there is no justice in the courts. The wicked far outnumber the righteous, so that justice has become perverted"

#FreeOurPeople #ReconstructTheJusticeSystem #IdleNoMore

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ryan Kelly Osecap (a.k.a. Sittingbear) wrote this piece while awaiting a trial at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre. Shortly after his release he passed away. His friend, Chantel Huel, had this to share: "Ryan Osecap was an advocate for justice and human rights. It saddens me to write this bio on his behalf. It was his dream to have this piece published. So, to honour him and his recent passing, this one's for you bro. Gone, but never forgotten. Rest In Power".