



Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Costanoan/Ohlone Indians
Historically known as "San Juan Bautista Band and San Juan Band" Indians of California
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News Release

Valentin Lopez, Chairman, Amah Mutsun Tribal Band to Attend Continental Meeting of Indigenous Peoples, to be held in San Cristobal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico from February 9-10, before the visit of Pope Francisco scheduled for February 13-15, 2016.

Chairman Lopez announced today that he has been invited to participate in the Encounter of the Continental Commission Abya Yala, Mexico from February 9-10, that will take place in anticipation of the visit of Pope Francisco to this city.

The purpose of this meeting is to demand that Pope Francis rescind and reject the papal bulls of the Roman Catholic Church. According to the Papal Bulls, issued in 1452, 1493, and other Bulls, the Catholic Church declared all non-Christian people to be heathens, pagans, and savages that have no soul. The Bulls also declared that because non-Christians were the enemies of Christ, they should be put into perpetual slavery and their property and possessions confiscated. These Bulls explicitly urged Christian monarchs to conquer, exploit, and dominate non-Christian peoples around the world. These Papal Bulls have never been rejected and remain an integral part of the Church's doctrine today.

Chairman Lopez said, "Our Amah Mutsun Tribe does not accept the apologies offered by Pope John Paul and Pope Francis to indigenous peoples because their apology does not clearly state what they are apologizing for." "Furthermore," Lopez continued, "we do not believe their apology to be sincere. If they were truly sorry for their 'sins, crimes and offense,' as stated by Pope Francis in Ecuador, they would rescind and reject the Papal Bulls. The world needs to recognize that the Papal Bulls were the impetus for the enslavement of over 12,000,000 Africans, the death of over 23,000,000 indigenous peoples in the Americas, and the destruction and domination of the indigenous peoples of India, Indonesia, and the Pacific Islands. It was the Papal Bulls that gave the moral and legal justification for the stealing of our land."

Chairman Lopez added that the Amah Mutsun have no doubt that Junipero Serra, the first Padre Presidente of the California Mission System, based his actions on the Papal Bulls. Serra devised mission practices that subjected the Indians to forced labor, involuntary confinement, whippings and the use of shackles and stocks, and the separation of families. The mission system was responsible for the death of over 150,000 California Indians. For this Pope Francis recognized Serra as a saint, purportedly deserving of others to emulate his actions. Pope Francis must explain this hypocrisy or remove sainthood for Serra.

For More Information:

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