

Idea for a video at youtube.com Declaration of Independence for Pacifica  
2024

If at some point the present states of California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and perhaps Hawai'i shall choose to petition for peaceably leaving the United States of America, and establishing their own independent nation to be called "Pacifica," it is important to justify these states' actions on the basis of statements in a Declaration of Independence. This suggested wording is written on the same basis that the colonial rebels against the British crown justified their separation during the American Revolution. With modifications of terminology, and specifications applied to the present situation, this declaration consciously follows the form and wording of Thomas Jefferson's 1776 Declaration of Independence:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all human beings are created equal, that they are endowed with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted by the people, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. When government evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security.

The history of the present government of the United States of America is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having as direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over our people. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.

The government of the United States of America has refused to pass laws that are necessary for the public good, while at the same time subjecting us to laws that are foreign to our values and our way of life.

It has utterly neglected to attend to and enforce laws which are of immediate and pressing importance.

It has violated the right of equal and fair representation in the Senate, of large numbers of citizens who live in urban areas.

It has curtailed the right of millions of people to vote, by purging voter registration lists on absurd technicalities, by canceling votes for trivial mistakes on ballots, by denying the right to vote to those who have ever pled guilty to a criminal offense, and by creating so many logistical barriers to discourage voters that many people are not able to vote.

It has enforced an unfair Electoral College system which undermines democracy, by undercounting the votes of those who live in the most populous states. This deficiency has resulted in presidents being inaugurated who have not received a majority of the votes of the people.

It violates democracy by widespread and systemic bribery of elected officials, in allowing wealthy individuals and large corporations to provide money to legislators and executive officials to do their bidding, for their own private interest and in opposition to the good of the people.

It has denied the freedom of movement, a basic human right, to those who have been charged with a criminal offense, and to those who wish to leave the United States. It has prevented immigrants from being admitted in a timely manner, or on the basis of their potential benefit to our economy and society, or harassing them after they arrive here.

It has attempted to establish religion, by including prayers in governmental meetings, by placing the phrase "In God We Trust" on money and other government documents, and by exempting religious organizations from taxation of their property and other forms of wealth.

It has opposed the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

It has violated the right of the people to be secure in their houses, papers and effects, by confiscating their private papers, computers and other personal digital equipment.

It has violated freedom of the press by criminalizing, arresting and imprisoning hundreds of thousands of people for printing harmless photographic images of an erotic nature.

It has violated the basic human rights of people below age eighteen, and denied them the right to control their own bodies and to vote.

It has made a mockery of the right of the accused to a speedy and public trial, and regularly keeps people incarcerated for many months and even years before they are brought into court. It has denied the accused the right to consult with others who may be helpful in their defense, and severely restricts the ability of incarcerated persons to communicate with their relatives and friends.

It has enacted protections for government officials who blatantly abuse people, and prevents their prosecution for grave acts of oppression.

It regularly requires excessive bail which is impossible for many people to pay.

It regularly inflicts cruel punishments on those who are incarcerated, even before they are convicted of a crime. It uses isolation and other forms of psychological torture. It inflicts capital punishment, killing people by brutal means, even in cases where evidence exists to suggest doubt about a person's guilt.

It has obstructed the administration of justice by appointing judges who are antagonistic to democracy and human rights.

It has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

It has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies and militarized police forces which are antagonistic to the human rights of the people.

It has declared business corporations to be “persons” with constitutional protections, while denying those same protections to actual human beings.

It has cut off our trade with all parts of the world.

It has enacted taxation laws which burden the poor and the middle class, while allowing the rich to pay taxes at greatly reduced rates.

It has, in many ways, violated the prohibition of the Ninth Amendment, that the enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

It has, in many ways, violated the prohibition of the Tenth Amendment, that powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, are reserved to the people.

It has regularly violated the government’s promises made in treaties with indigenous nations of North America and other lands claimed by the United States. It has infringed on the right of self-government of people of these nations in regard to the small portion of ancestral lands that are remaining to them.

It has a history of claiming lands on the basis of military conquest, subterfuge, and colonial exploitation, denying basic human rights and the right of self-government to peoples residing in those lands.

It has repeatedly interfered in the internal affairs of many nations around the world, lying to the American people that these interventions are in the national interest when in fact they are only in the interest of particular corporations, in the process violating the human rights of the people of those nations, and enforcing brutal dictatorships in opposition to the interests of those peoples.

It has obstructed laws for naturalization of foreigners, and conducted an immigration system that takes many years to reach a decision. This makes it expensive and nearly impossible for persons to qualify, and then punishes them for appealing for asylum in legal or extralegal ways.

It cruelly makes it difficult for persons who were brought to the United States as young children to apply for legal residency and citizenship, even though this nation is the place they were raised and is the only home they know. Though their situation is no fault of their own, the lives of many thousands of people are disrupted and made miserable by the actions and inactions of the United States government.

It has been plundering our forests and our seas, ravaging our coasts, destroying our natural resources and our environment, and threatening the lives and health of our people.

It has brought about circumstances of cruelty and perfidy totally unworthy of a democratic nation.

In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms: our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A government whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

We have appealed to the United States government for enactment of practices respecting human rights and magnanimity, and we have pled for it to disavow these usurpations. But it has been deaf to the voice of justice and consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our separation, and hold it, as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war, in peace friends.

We, therefore, the representatives of the nation of Pacifica, appealing to the supreme sense of justice of humankind for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by the authority of the good people of our states, are, and of right ought to be free and independent states; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the United States of America, and that all political connection between them and the United States of America, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as free and independent states, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent states may of right do. And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the opinions of humankind, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.