SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
DECEMBER 14, 15 & 16, 2010, GATINEAU, QC

Resolution no. 83/2010

TITLE:	Development of a National Justice Strategy
SUBJECT:	Justice
MOVED BY:	Chief Gilbert Whiteduck, Kitigan-Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation, Québec
SECONDED BY:	Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Proxy, Penticton Indian Band, British Columbia
DECISION:	Resolution was referred to AFN executive by Chiefs-in-Assembly on December 16, 2010. Passed by the AFN Executive at a duly convened meeting on January 20, 2011

WHEREAS:

A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms standards which ensure the protection and fulfillment of the rights of Indigenous peoples.

B. Amnesty International reports Indian Residential Schools and the dispossession of Indigenous women who married outside their communities as two key government policies that have lasting impacts on the social problems we face today and on the marginalization of Indigenous women within Canadian society.

C. Aboriginal people make up 3% of Canada's population, yet Aboriginal peoples represent 17% of homicide victims, Aboriginal women represent 33% of women in federal penitentiaries (Wilson and McDonald).

D. The cycle of violence continues through our children entering the child welfare system at a staggering rate and through lower educational achievements. Aboriginal youth are eight times more likely to be in custody than their non-Aboriginal counterparts; and 90% of teen, urban sex-trade workers in Canada are Aboriginal girls under 18 years of age.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 20th day of January, 2011 in Ottawa, Ontario

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF

E. Socio-economic factors such as poor housing, family poverty, lack of parenting, substance abuse, poor education, lack of training and employment all contribute to marginalization that may lead to Aboriginal involvement in the criminal justice system.

F. First Nations' confidence and trust in the criminal justice system is shaken and a national justice public inquiry may be an important means for social and political reform.

G. Canada has a clear and inescapable obligation to ensure the safety of Indigenous women, to bring those responsible for attacks against them to justice, and to address the deeper problems of marginalization, dispossession and impoverishment that have placed so many Indigenous women in harm's way.

H. RCMP briefings also reveal disproportionately high numbers of Aboriginal murdered & missing men. Aboriginal homicides in one region accounts for 82% of cases.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to facilitate a national justice conference in the fall of 2011 to bring together key stakeholders from First Nations, Criminal Justice, police and government agencies to facilitate discussions on justice legislation and policies an to develop a national justice strategy and work plan.

2. Direct the AFN and Executive to develop a terms of reference for a National multi-jurisdictional Justice Inquiry that could include:

    a. an independent review of police actions with respect to police shooting of Aboriginal peoples, deaths in custody and, murdered and missing women;
    b. a mandate to make recommendations for the development of public policy to address the socio-economic issues that give rise to crimes

3. Direct the AFN and Executive to seek resources necessary to build capacity to support furthering the action plan and obtain real results and improvements in justice for First Nations.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 20th day of January, 2011 in Ottawa, Ontario

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF