

Djiniyini Gondarra's speech (English translation)

Our law has existed from the beginning of time. The law of tranquillity, the law of the big peace, the law that is consistent with the source law. Let's follow it.

Our law is not an aggressive law. You know. This age old law of ours that existed with our inside (Ñärra') parliaments our (dhuni) semi-public chambers of law, and our (makarr-gärma) public gatherings were all based on mägaya, the big peace. It was not filled with aggression within our soul. Anger boiling up in us all the time. Now we seem to be using it differently, the law.

Law that comes from the Balanda. It's another law, and it's not really the law of the Balanda which we've taken on. It's another law where we seem to be copying them, and we're following that. And it's disgusting.

The law that is ours is good. The creator spirits Djaŋ'kawu and Barama were given this law. By the great unknown one, Waŋarr the great creator spirit. We don't know how Waŋarr instructed them. But we know it is the way of peace that we are now destroying.

This is our way of law that our ancestors have used. And now we're not using it. It's like our law doesn't exist anymore. It is though we're frightened of this other law that wants to pronounce our law as repugnant. As though our law is disgusting. But our law is not disgusting or repugnant.

Balanda has a law where they go to war to protect their own nation. We have similar laws where things can get very aggressive. Where we kill one, they kill one. Why is this? It's so we can create peace and order across our lands.

You see. And these processes of law exist so we can correct and even destroy wicked and deceitful ways. And disgusting and evil ways exist where some people are breaking the law, stealing, and taking what is not theirs.

You see. There is a system of law of the big peace and a rule of law that creates order and justice. Let's return to that rule of law. The way of peace through a good way of living. Freedom for all even. That's another way of naming it. To live as free people. To live in a legally secure community where our rights are fully protected.

This is our law that can break real disputes between people, how we can stop trouble. It can only happen through a process of law. Not through lawlessness. Only through a process of law and the way of peace can we correct things. And this is what I'm saying to you here.

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We've forgotten this. We've gone on to use a lot of the Balanda law. You see.

We use their law, but we misunderstand it. As though it's similar to our law. But no, it's different. Ours is a good law. The law of forgiveness. Of invitation and hospitality. Of diplomacy between families and corporate clan groups. Of breaking disputes and division. Of resolving and ending disputation.

The peace mound is flattened out, and everything is made clean. It's a great process. Where our leaders can say, "it's resolved, it's finished everyone." And they turn to the parties in dispute and say, "it's finished, resolved, wiped away".

Let's return to the consistent foundational law of the past where you can live in the way of peace and tranquillity, where you can practice hospitality with all your neighbours. This process of law is one that creates real unity amongst us. You see, where we sit in unity together.

The mothers clan and their children's clan together. A grandmothers clan on the mother's side and their grandchildren two clans over. A grandmother's grandchildren and all the other relatives together in different clans.

This is the way of our law in the past. We need to see to it that our younger people understand this. You see. And live according to this way.

