

## BARBADIAN NOW MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

Well-known Barbadian-born Indigenous rights activist and (Guyana) Arawak descendant - Damon Corrie, was registered at the United Nations headquarters at 9.04 am on Monday April 21st 2008 - to participate in the Seventh session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (April 21st - May 2nd 2008).

Damon was one of 15 indigenous rights activists and/or representatives selected worldwide to benefit from a



*Damon and Rene Rimas of the Masai People*

United Nations sponsored training

course created by the Tribal Link Foundation, which was held from April 16th -18th 2008; and which allowed the 15 participants to also become part of the Seventh Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues - held at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York city. A country breakdown of the 15 lucky participants was as follows: 5 were from Africa (Kenya and Tanzania), 4 from South America (Ecuador and Peru), 3 from the Pacific (Philippines, Tuvalu and the Moluccas), 2 from the Caribbean (Dominica and Barbados), and 1 from Europe (Ukraine).



*Damon showing pony tail in group shot at UN*

When asked to comment on his first experience at the United Nations, Damon had this to say: "I feel very privileged to be here, and eternally grateful to have been selected by Tribal Link who are one the THE most important allies of Indigenous Peoples worldwide; previously I had spent about four years working in the Indigenous Rights process in the Organization of

American States (OAS), but this is the United Nations - and there simply is no higher a forum in the Indigenous Rights struggle where one can forge powerful multi-racial and multi-ethnic global alliances....for without solidarity - we are all doomed to failure."