

Decisive moment in time



Roger Skarvik

Background of speaker

- Roger Skarvik
- 30 years old
- Comes from Kautokeino, a Sámi town in Finnmark, Norway.
- Student of IT and Anthropology
- Currently working in the Sámediggi (the Sámi Parliament.)
- Involved in politics since 1989, including the work leading to the Finnmark act
- Been involved in international youth cooperation since mid-90s

Background material

- Presentation of the Sámediggi (Sámi Parliament), made by them.
- Report to the Special Rapporteur (UN) from the Sámi President
- Report to the Special Rapporteur (UN) made by the opposition in the Sámediggi

Sápmi

- The people
- The language
- The settlement area

An indigenous people of the Arctic



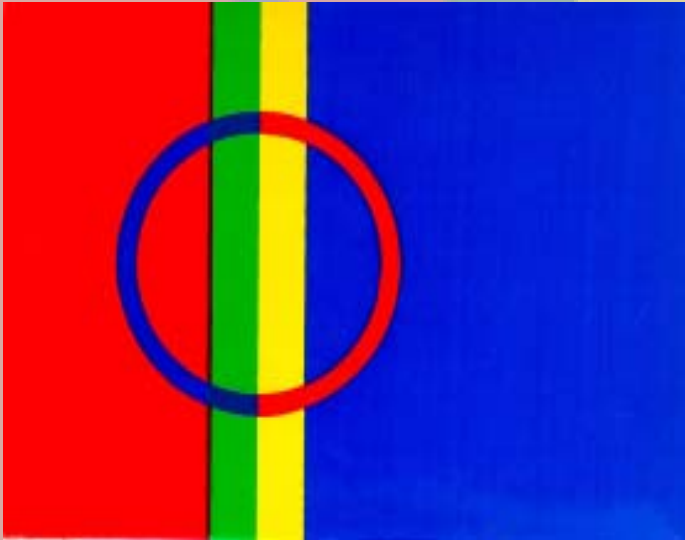
- The Sámi are one of many Arctic indigenous peoples
- Other indigenous peoples related to the Sámi are the Inuit in the West and Nenets/Komits In the East

One people in four countries



- The Sámi live in four national states
- Common language, culture and traditions
- Common Sámi flag, national day and national anthem

The flag



- Sámi Conference 1986
- Designed by Astrid Båhl
- Sámi flag days

National anthem

- "The Sámi People's Song" or Sámi soga lávlla
- Written by Isak Saba
- First Sámi elected to the Storting (Norwegian Parliament)
- The song was adopted as the common national anthem at the Sámi Conference in 1986

National day

- 6 February
- Celebrated first time in 1993
- Adopted at 15th Sámi Conference in Helsinki, June 1992
- First Sámi National Congress held 1917 in Trondheim
- Elsa Laula Renberg – initiator of the National Congress

Sámediggi in the Nordic countries



- Sámediggi in Finland
- Established 1973
- Sámediggi in Norway
- Established 1989
- Sámediggi in Sweden
- Established 1993

Alta-Kautokeino conflict



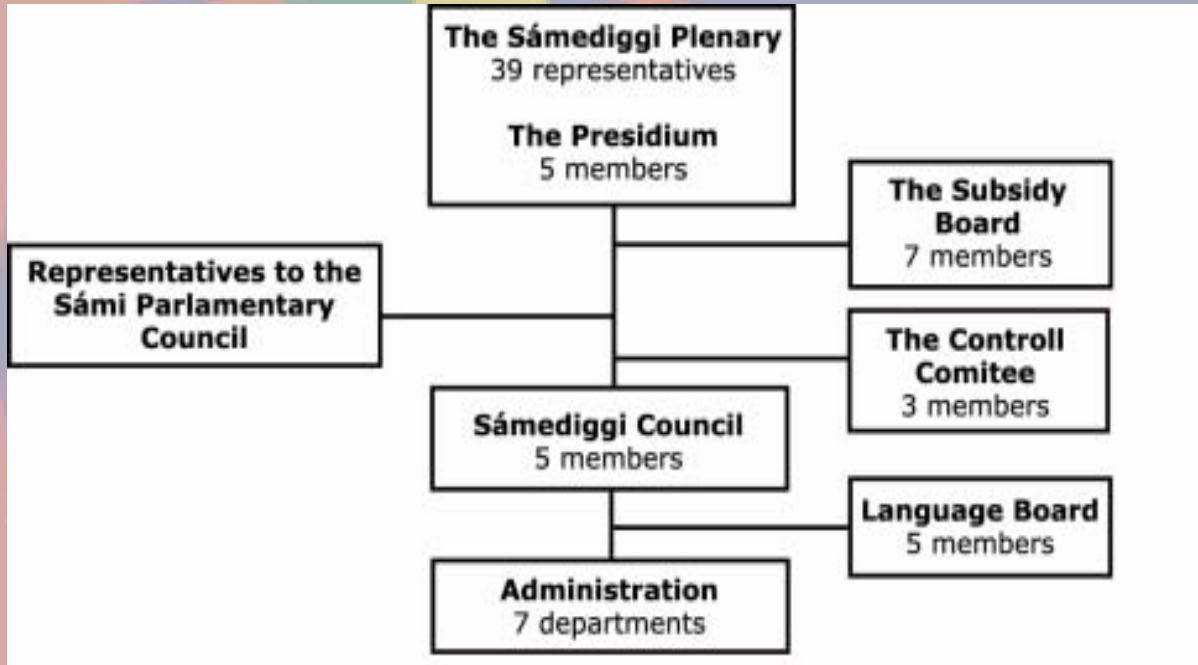
- Conflict started in 1950
- Máze protected in 1973
- Storting decide to build the dam in 1978
- Demonstrations started in june 1979
- Conflict ends in 1982



The conflict speeded up the Sámi rights issue:

- Sámi Rights Council's was appointed in 1980 and the first part recommendation finished in 1984
- Storting resolution 1987 on separate Sámi Act
- The Constitutional act, § 110a of 1988
- Sámediggi opened 9 October 1989
- The ILO Convention no. 169 ratified 1990

Political organization



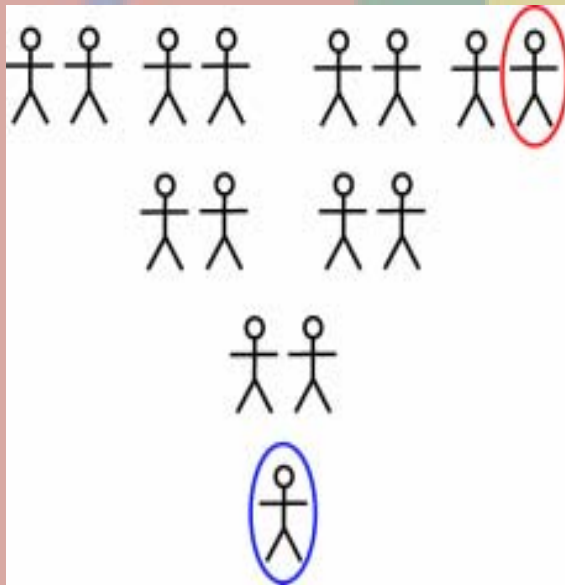
Sámediggi Plenary Session



Sámediggi election

- Held every fourth year concomitantly with the Storting election
- The Sámediggi is the highest electoral authority
- Only those listed in the Sámi Electoral Register have the right to vote

Sámi Electoral Register - criteria

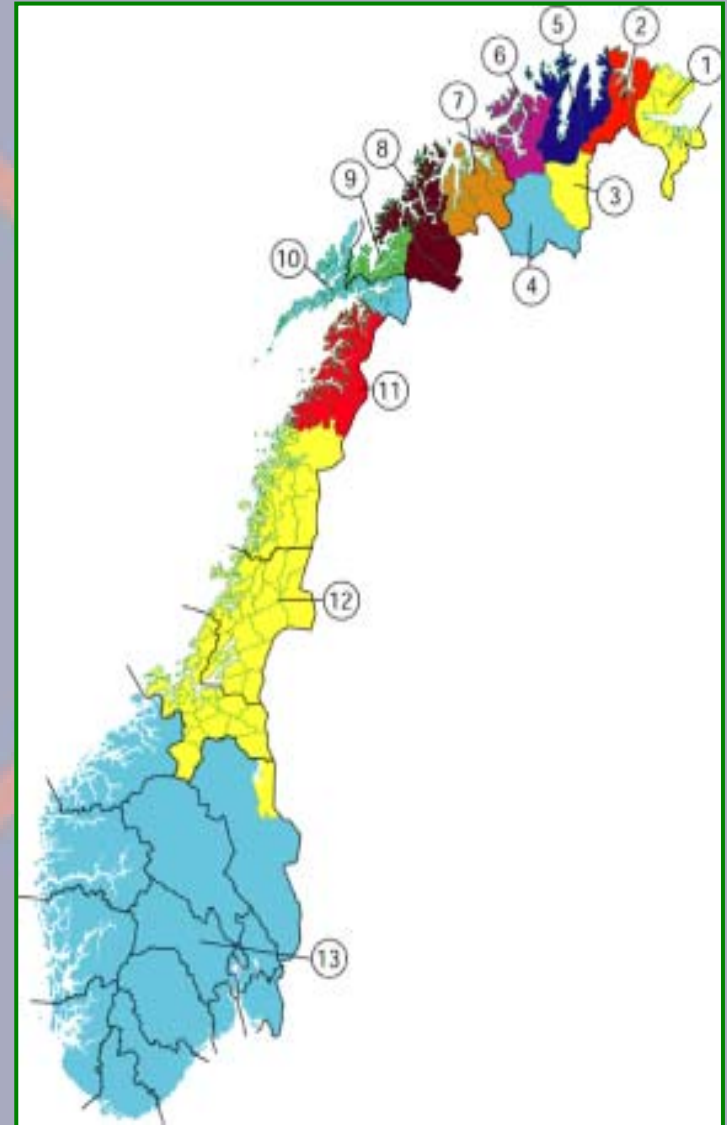


In order to register, you must:

- consider yourself a Sámi
- have Sámi as your home language, or at least one of your parents, grandparents or great grandparents

Electoral districts

- 13 electoral districts nationwide
- 3 representatives from each district are elected



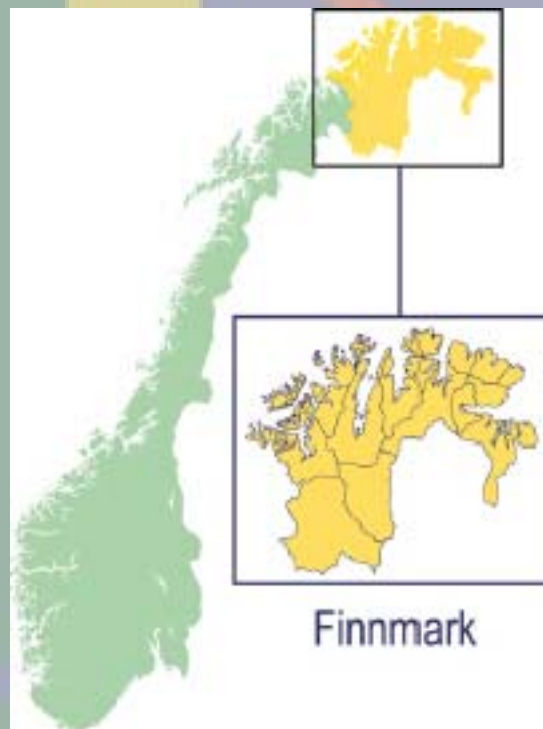
Decision-making authority or not?

- On matters the authority over which the central government has transferred to the Sámediggi, such as preservation of Sámi cultural heritage, education, language, business and industry and culture the Sámediggi has decisive power.
- Distributes its own budget
- Administer and prioritise the funds that the state transfers
- Mandatory hearing body to be consulted on matters concerning the Sámi population
- The Sámediggi can decide on matters of its own choosing
- In many instances the Sámediggi is only an advisory body
- Since it was established in 1989 there has been a continuous transfer of responsibility and decisive power

Rights to and administration of the land rights

- Finnmark act
- Selbu case
- Svartskogen case

Finnmark act



Finnmark act

- 1997: Saami Rights Committee presented its report after working since the aftermath of the Alta demonstrations.
- 2003: The government presents “Finnmarksloven” (The Finnmark Act)
- Disregards the work of the Saami Rights Committee
- Gives the same rights to all the inhabitants, and no rights to the Sámis based on rights as indigenous people
- Sámediggi almost unanimously rejects the proposal
- Stortinget has not yet debated the proposal
- The work of investigating such rights in the rest of the country is on its way and will be done in the next years
- State-owned enterprise, Statskog SF, currently administer the land in Finnmark (96%)

Selbu case

- Selbu lies in Sør-Trøndelag
- 2001
- Dispute between reindeer herders and private property owners.
- grazing rights on private wilderness areas within the boundaries of the reindeer grazing district?
- Age-old use and Norway's international law obligations were cited on the part of the reindeer herders
- Reindeer-herders won
- Norwegian Supreme Court stated explicitly that the Sámi are an indigenous people in Norway

Svartskog case

- Manndalen, Nord-Troms County
- 2001
- Dispute between the Norwegian state and the property owners in Manndalen.
- Who was the owner of a large wilderness area (Svartskog)?
- The judgement stipulated that the property owners had acquired the area in dispute through age-old collective use.
- This judgement is the first (and so far the only) judgement where a group of Sámi collectively acquire the right of ownership to a wilderness area on the grounds of age-old use.

Areas of conflict with the state

- Oil and gas activities in the Barents Sea
- Coast Sámis fishing rights
- Military bombing and artillery ranges
- Mineral activities
- Nature reserves and landscape reserves
- Predators and the problems they cause for reindeer-herders
- Land rights

Is it possible to find solutions that give the Sámis their rights to traditional areas, and make sure all inhabitants in Finnmark can live happily side by side?

Globalisation and its effect?

- Very difficult question 😊
- Most of the results in Norway comes from work done within the borders of the national state.
- More and more focus on international political bodies and agreements
- Is the fight for our own culture also the fight against Coca-Cola and Rock 'n Roll?
- Isn't it obvious that the technology we have now makes it easier to cooperate across borders, and that this is extremely important for the indigenous peoples of the world??

Globalisation?



UN Permanent Forum
for Indigenous People



Fashion show Riddu Riddu 2003