

Nohooká Dine'

Resolution

August 26, 2013

Nohooká Dine' strongly oppose any and all actions by the Navajo Nation, Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture that leads to mass execution of the horses that have been illegally round-up.

These governmental entities have not attained our free, prior and informed consent in violation of our rights outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In addition, these illegal actions violate Our Dine' Way of Life and Our Responsibilities as Human Beings.

WHEREAS, The Horse is our medicine and has helped us survive many hardships, they must be given respect and honored for their sacred place within the Creation, as they possess the same fundamental right to Life as we, Five Finger Ones, do, and;

WHEREAS, The Great Horse Nation is a part of the Great Covenant, as a supernatural being, it possesses incredible power, it is inextricably tied to our spiritual way of life and our cultural traditions, when our children are born our families look to the horse spirit to see what they have delivered to us, if we fail to honor the place of the horse in our spiritual way of life and in our cultural traditions, then we jeopardize the very cycle that renews the life of our people, and;

WHEREAS, The capture, imprisonment and proposed execution of these horses represents a forced assimilation and the destruction of our spiritual and cultural way of life, and;

WHEREAS, Article 8 of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples grants the right to Indigenous Nations and Individuals to be free from forced assimilation and the destruction of our cultural way of life, and it requires the state to provide mechanism of prevention and redress for any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities, and;

WHEREAS, We recognize that the capture, imprisonment and proposed execution of these horses is a deprivation of our cultural values, and;

WHEREAS, We recognize that the capture, imprisonment and proposed execution of these horses is the same destructive cycle of actions that Our Ancestors endured, equal in destructive impact to our cultural way of life as the slaughter of the bison, and;

WHEREAS, Article 24, 25 and 26 of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples give the peoples the right to maintain relationships with the elements of their spiritual and cultural way of life and to preserve that way of life for future generations. and;

WHEREAS, The Navajo Nation is in violation of our fundamental belief and understanding of K'é. The Navajo Nation's proposed mass execution of the horses erodes this basic fundamental belief and understanding that Peaceably Unites Us to One Another and to All Creation, and

WHEREAS, The Navajo Nation's proposed actions will demonstrate to our children and future generations that Life is Not Sacred and can be treated recklessly and without the full consultation and consent of the People, Our Elders and Medicine People. The negative actions conducted by Navajo Nation President, Ben Shelly, Navajo Nation Tribal Council, Department of Interior and the Department of Agriculture will be reflected in our children. Our children must learn to value life, otherwise they will treat their own lives recklessly and be drawn toward substance abuse, domestic violence, suicide and other behaviors that are not in accordance with Our Way of Life, and;

WHEREAS, Article 19 of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples requires that States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them, and;

WHEREAS, The Navajo Nation has signed on in support of the principles outlined in the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and;

WHEREAS, We, Nohooká Dine', strongly insist and advise the Navajo Nation to:

- Honor their commitment to the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Stop the round up and mass execution/slaughter of the sacred/holy horses.
- Sit down face-to-face and work to achieve consensus with the impacted parties including the Elders, Medicine People and the Holy People. With prayer and song the solution will be revealed and consensus will be achieved for the benefit of our children and All Life.
- Work to obtain our free, prior and informed consent and to fully consult with us prior to taking any action that may lead to the execution of the horses.
- Utilize our Dine' Way of Life and Our Spiritual Foundation to create and promote peace and harmony within our community and with our sacred relatives the horses.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Our efforts are to instruct our children and future generations that **All Life is Sacred and We Must Exercise Our Sacred Obligation and Duty to Protect Our Relatives the Horse**. Decisions have been made without proper consultation and without attaining our free, prior and informed consent in violation of our Rights as Indigenous Peoples. When we abuse the sacredness of life we affect all Creation.

We, Nohooká Dine', formally request that our indigenous ways of decision-making, interaction and consultation be acknowledged and respected. We are connected and communicate spiritually with the animals and other spirits of Creation, with this we advise and request - do not intrude or violate Our Sacred Way of Life as Dine' Peoples now, here, there and forever. We were given the right to self-determination and self-sufficiency by our Creator. **We must the follow the Laws of the Creator, that do not change, which have been handed down generation-to-generation since the beginning of Creation.**

To treat Life so recklessly and without the counsel of the Elders and Medicine People IS NOT Our Way of Life, rather it is the way of life that was planted in our young people when they cut their hairs and prevented our children from speaking our language, it is a forced assimilation. We see this mass execution of our relatives, the horses, as the rotten fruit of a bad seed that was planted in the minds of our children in the earlier days. Again, we need to sit down face-to-face and exercise our Dine' Indigenous Way of Life and Being to come to a more respectful and peaceful solution for all, especially the horses.

Nohooká Dine' strongly urges the Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly, The Navajo Nation Council, The Navajo Nation Judicial Branch, US Department of Interior and US Department of Agriculture to stop the desecration and destruction of the Dine' Way of Life and Spiritual Foundation by recklessly promoting and supporting the round-up and mass execution of our spiritual relative the Horse. Any and all horse beings or symbols of the sacred traditional culture of the living horse must be respected at all grounds in the community, land, and wild.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby Certify the foregoing resolution was considered at the duly called meeting of the Nohooká Dine', and Dine' Traditional Practitioners at Lower Black Mesa (Navajo Nation) Arizona at which a Natural and Traditional quorum was presented and the same was passed by a vote of 32 in favor and 0 opposed 0 abstained on this 26th day of August, 2013.

X Mark of the elders and medicine
Peoples who do not read, write
nor speak english.