



## **ANNOUNCEMENT AND INVITATION**

### **HUMAN RIGHTS HEARING FOR THE UNITED NATIONS EXPERT MECHANISM ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (EMRIP) STUDY ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS IN THE CONTEXT OF BORDERS, MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT**

**JANUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2019  
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM (MST)**

2018 W. San Xavier Road, Tucson, AZ, 85746, San Xavier District, Tohono O'odham Nation  
Co-sponsored by the San Xavier District, Tohono O'odham Nation and the Tucson Office of the International Indian Treaty Council in coordination with the UNEMRIP

- 1. Indigenous peoples, in particular those divided by international borders, have the right to maintain and develop contacts, relations and cooperation, including activities for spiritual, cultural, political, economic and social purposes, with their own members as well as other peoples across borders.*
- 2. States, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, shall take effective measures to facilitate the exercise and ensure the implementation of this right.*
  - Article 36, UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*

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At its 11<sup>th</sup> session in July 2018, the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) decided that its next study would focus on Indigenous Peoples' Rights in the Context of Borders, Migration and Displacement, as an urgent human rights concern expressed by Indigenous Peoples from around the world. This decision was reported to the UN Human Rights Council at their 39<sup>th</sup> session in September 2018.

The San Xavier District, Tohono O'odham Nation and the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC), in conjunction with the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, invite you to attend a Human Rights hearing to gather testimonies and documentation addressing Human Rights violations experienced by members of Indigenous Peoples, Tribal Nations and communities divided by the US/Mexico international border, as well from Indigenous migrants and asylum-seekers. Information provided will be included in the EMRIP's 2019 Study which will be presented in September 2019, along with the EMRIP's conclusions and recommendations, to the Human Rights Council. The hearing will be attended by Attorney Kristen Carpenter, expert member of the EMRIP from the North America Region.

Information and statements can be in English or Spanish and can be presented anonymously or with the presenter's name included. Testimonies should focus on direct experiences or situations which have been directly witnessed by the presenter.

Each presenter will have 10 minutes to present (depending on the number of those requesting time). Additional information can be provided to the UN Expert in the form of photos, videos, maps, written testimonies, affidavits and other documents.

Those who wish to present testimonies should pre-register by contacting Amy Juan, IITC Office Manager, (520) 833-9797 (office) or (520) 993-0964, or by email to [amy@treatycouncil.org](mailto:amy@treatycouncil.org) so that everyone can be accommodated. If your time is limited, please provide a preferred time slot and we will do our best to work with your schedule. Unless otherwise requested, all testimonies will be presented publicly, and participants are invited to stay for the entire hearing.

If you plan to attend but are not requesting speaking time, please also RSVP so that we can plan seating, snacks and lunch. If you would like to provide information for this study but are not able to attend, please submit by February 1, 2019 to [expertmechanism@ohchr.org](mailto:expertmechanism@ohchr.org).

The Co-sponsors feel that this is an important opportunity and crucial time to share with the United Nations how Indigenous Peoples' rights are being impacted by current U.S. Border Policies including by arbitrary detentions, limited movement, family separations, cultural rights violations, militarization of border communities, intimidation and continued injuries and deaths.

For more information including the EMRIP concept note for the Study, log on to:  
<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IPeoples/EMRIP/Pages/BordersMigrationDisplacement.aspx>

### **Provisional Schedule for the Hearing:**

9:00 AM: Opening Invocation

9:15 AM: Welcome by Chairman Austin Nunez, San Xavier District, Tohono O'odham Nation

9:30 AM: Opening presentation by Attorney Kristen Carpenter, Member from the North America Region of the UN EMRIP: the EMRIP mandate and current study on Borders and Migration

9:45 AM: Using UN bodies to defend human rights: Andrea Carmen, Executive Director, IITC

10:00 AM: Overview of Human Rights Violations caused by current US Border and Migration Policies on the Tohono O'odham Nation and Report on outcomes of the Tribal Border Summit (January 24-25): Tohono O'odham Nation Chairman Manuel

10:30 AM: Overview of impacts on the Yaqui Nation: Vice Chairman Peter Yucupicio and Council member Francisco Valencia, Pascua Yaqui Tribe

11:00 AM: Community and Tribal Member Testimonies

12:30 PM: Lunch provided

1:30 PM: Community and Tribal Member Testimonies Continued

4:30 PM: Summary of Preliminary Observations, Attorney Kristen Carpenter, EMRIP

4:45 PM: Closing Invocation

5:00 PM: Adjourn