



International Indian Treaty Council
Consejo Internacional de Tratados Indios

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INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL (IITC) STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY
WITH HICKORY GROUND TRIBAL TOWN (OCEVPOFV)

**Presented in Atlanta, Georgia on September 24th, 2024 by IITC Board member
Band Chief Rodney Factor, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma**

Estonko. The International Indian Treaty Council stands in firm and unwavering support of the Mekkos of Hickory Ground Tribal Town (Ocevpofv) and the Muskogee (Creek) Nation. We continue to support their ongoing struggle to heal their sacred traditional burial grounds in Alabama from the desecration that has taken place, and to return their ancestors' remains to their original resting place.

As an organization representing the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Nations at the United Nations for the past 50 years, we have presented in various UN Bodies about the failure of the United States to uphold its human rights obligations in this matter. The United States government is obligated by its commitment to respect and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Article 12 states that *"Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest, practise, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites; the right to the use and control of their ceremonial objects; and the right to the repatriation of their human remains."*

We are here today to express our ongoing support for this struggle for human rights, healing, and justice on the occasion of the oral arguments that will take place on September 25th, 2024 at the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit here in Atlanta. We join our prayers with all the other prayers being offered here so that this hearing will support justice for Hickory Ground. Justice will only be achieved by restoring and ensuring permanent protection for this sacred ancestral resting place in its original location.

Thank you for all you have done to uphold these inherent rights for Ocevpofv and for all other Indigenous Peoples who have also suffered disrespect and desecrations of their sacred places and burial grounds. We will continue to stand with you as you continue to call for healing and justice. Mvto.

Working for the Rights and Recognition of Indigenous Peoples
Trabajando por los Derechos y el Reconocimiento de los Pueblos Indígenas