

APACHE STRONGHOLD

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Media Advisory: Press Conference

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - January 13, 2021

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Apache Stronghold to Host Virtual Press Conference

Oak Flat, Arizona --- Apache Stronghold, on behalf of traditional Apache religious and cultural leaders, sued the Trump Administration January 12, 2021 in U.S. District Court in Phoenix to stop the transfer of Oak Flat, Chi'chil Bildagoteel, to British-Australian corporate mining giant Rio Tinto and its subsidiary, Resolution Copper.

The lawsuit seeks to stop the U.S. Forest Service's publication on January 15, 2021, of a final environmental impact statement that will trigger the transfer of Oak Flat to Resolution Copper. The Forest Service is rushing publication to help Rio Tinto take possession of Oak Flat before the end of the Trump administration, despite opposition by Apache Stronghold, San Carlos Apache Tribe, White Mountain Apache Tribe and hundreds of other Native American tribes.

Former San Carlos Apache tribal chairman and Apache Stronghold Leader Dr. Wendsler Nosie Sr. will be holding a virtual press conference on January 14th, 2021 at 3PM MST to talk about the historic lawsuit and the importance of protecting holy places.

The lawsuit against the U.S. government says the giveaway and destruction of Oak Flat violates the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and Apaches' constitutional rights to religious freedom, due process, and petition and remedy. The giveaway also constitutes a breach of trust and fiduciary duties.

Date/Time: January 14th, 2021 @ 3PM MST

**Where: [Zoom](#) **

Who: Wendsler Nosie Sr., Apache Stronghold