

APACHE STRONGHOLD

POB 766 SAN CARLOS, AZ 85550



October 9, 2021

This statement comes to you with immense concern for the future of all our children and the entire Nigos'dzan (Mother Earth). We have come to a pivotal point in the protection of Chi'chil Bidagoteel, Oak Flat, which unites us together for the simple reason of protecting the future of our children, those yet to born and the world, Earth (Mother Earth).

On October 22, 2021, Our Appeal on the motion for Temporary Restraining order and Preliminary Injunction against the United States, USDA, and Tonto National Forest will be heard in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

Apache Stronghold is dedicated to the defense of Native American sacred sites. We are requesting in Apache Stronghold v. United States to save our spiritual lifeblood, a sacred site called Oak Flat, from being destroyed by a copper mine that would swallow our holy ground in a nearly 2-mile-wide 1,000-foot-deep crater. Oak Flat is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and has been protected from mining for more than six decades, but, in a 2014 midnight backroom deal politicians slipped in a “rider” to the must-pass National Defense Authorization Act, letting the government transfer the land to Resolution Copper, a foreign-owned mining company.

Apache Stronghold’s appeal asks the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to recognize that the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *McGirt v. Oklahoma* (2020) that “we hold the government to its word” in a Treaty with the Creek Indians, and that the U.S. Supreme Court has stopped multiple government violations of religious rights in cases like *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* (2014) and *Little Sisters of the Poor v. Pennsylvania* (2020).

The issues to be heard are:

Whether the government imposes a “substantial burden” on Native American religious exercise when it authorizes the transfer and destruction of their sacred site, rendering central Native American religious practices forever impossible.

2. Whether the government is subject to heightened scrutiny under the Free Exercise Clause when it takes targeted action singling out only one piece of land and destroying only Native American religious practices.

3. Whether the government violates its trust obligation to Native Americans when it promises in a treaty to settle their “territorial boundaries” and pass laws conducive to their “happiness and prosperity,” and then takes their sacred religious site by force and transfers it to a mining company for permanent destruction.

Apache Stronghold will travel to the Hearing on a Spiritual Convoy, traveling to the Bay Area from Tuesday, October 18th to Saturday, the 23rd. The convoy, in prayer, will visit supporting

Tribes leading to the 9th circuit court hearing to protect a Sacred and Holy land that God has blessed the World with Deities, Oak Flat. It is the United States intention to exchange the land to Rio Tinto & BHP's Resolution Copper for mining. We invite all to join us in the journey to San Francisco to be present for our Appeal Hearing.

The schedule for the convoy is attached. It will be live-streamed during the convoy and will also air on 90.1 FM KZSU Stanford University Radio. The Rally in San Francisco will also air via the Poor Peoples Campaign on poorpeoplescampaign.org. All links will be on www.apache-stronghold.com and on facebook at [apache stronghold](https://www.facebook.com/apachestronghold).

All CDC Guidelines will be followed and adhered to at each location along the convoy. Please adhere to California COVID requirements and San Francisco COVID mandate.

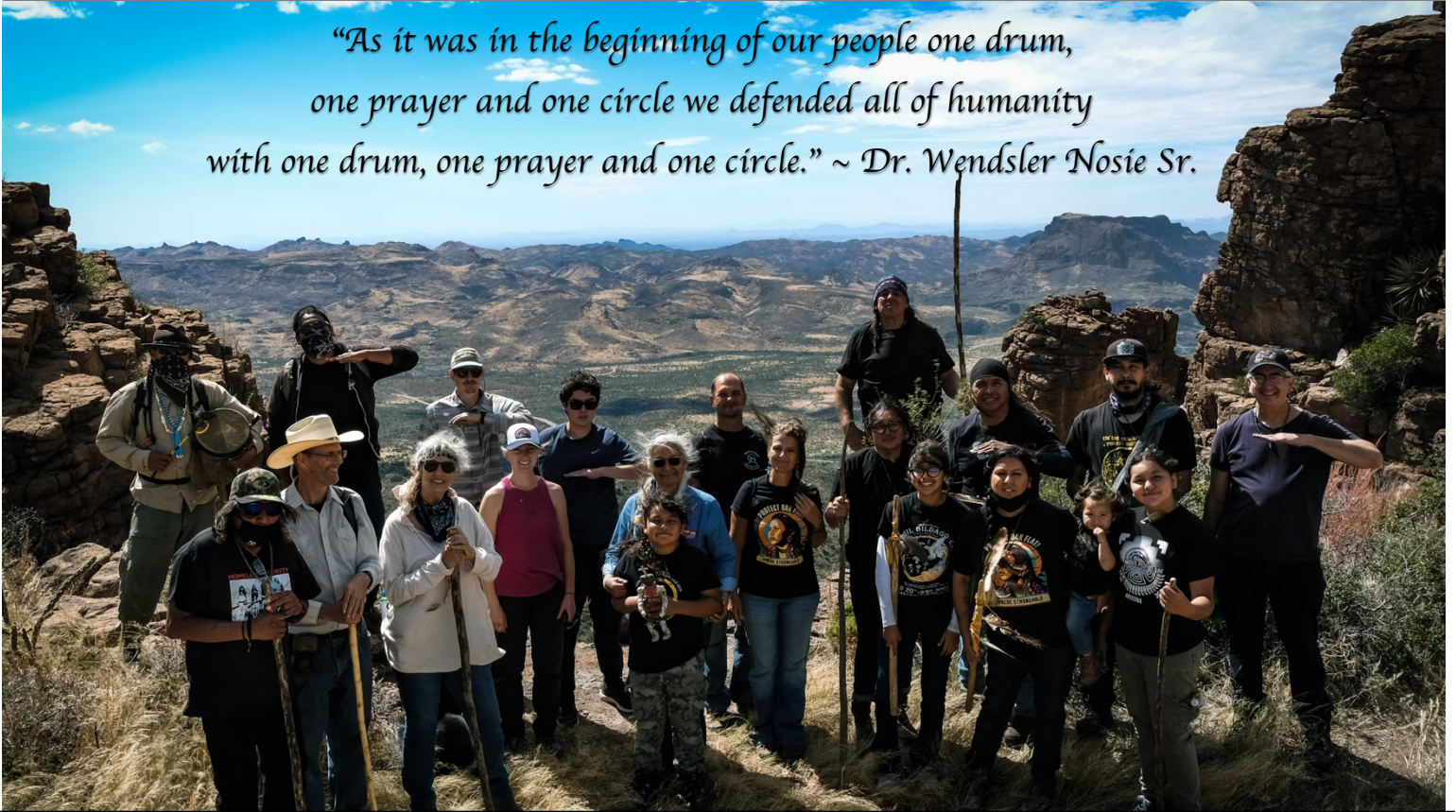
Gozho do leel (Blessings),

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wendsler Nosie SR', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Apache Stronghold
Dr. Wendsler Nosie SR.

APACHE STRONGHOLD SPIRITUAL CONVOY TO THE 9TH CIRCUIT COURT

*“As it was in the beginning of our people one drum,
one prayer and one circle we defended all of humanity
with one drum, one prayer and one circle.” ~ Dr. Wendsler Nosie Sr.*



Saturday, October 9

- 6:30 a.m. – Personal Day of Prayer at Oak Flat

Sunday, October 10

- 9:00 a.m. – Holy Ground blessing at Dripping Springs
(San Carlos - Hwy 70 milepost 264)

Monday, October 11

- 9:00 a.m. - Webinar with Jesuit Conference of the U.S. & Canada
- Statement at Indigenous Peoples Day (Alcatraz)

Tuesday, October 12

- 5:00 p.m. – Dinner with Chairman Rambler

Wednesday, October 13

- 12:00 p.m. – Redrum escort out of San Carlos from
(Burdette Hall - heading to Tucson)
- 4:00 p.m. – “A” mountain blessing by Tohono O’odham
- 6:30 p.m. – Southside Presbyterian Church

Thursday, October 13

- 8:30 a.m. – Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- 2:30 p.m. – Brophy College Prep Native American Club
- 5:00 p.m. – Pee Posh Gila River Indian Community

Friday, October 15

- 11:00 a.m. – Colorado River Indian Tribes
- 3:00 p.m. – Quechan/Cocopah Indian Tribes

Saturday, October 16

- 11:00 a.m. – Morongo/Pauma Valley

Sunday, October 17

- 4:00 p.m. – Wishtoyo Chumash/L.A. Native collective

Monday, October 18

- 3:00 p.m. – Stanford University

Tuesday, October 19

- St. Ignatius College Prep

Wednesday, October 20

- 4:00 p.m. Prayer Rally at the Federal Building on 7th & Mission

Thursday, October 21

- Day of Prayer (Time/Location – TBD)

Friday, October 22

- Listening Session/Press Conference (Time/Location – TBD)

For updates visit apache-stronghold.com

**Please follow all CDC guidelines.
Vaccine Mandate in California**