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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

May 4, 2012

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT ON COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

Washington-Lee High School *Arlington, Virginia

THE PRESIDENT: Hello, Generals! (Applause.) Hello, Virginia! (Applause.) Well, let me first of all say, following Amirah is kind of tough. (Laughter.) She is really good. Give her a big round of applause for the great introduction. (Applause.) There are a couple of other people I want to introduce who are here today. First of all, my Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, is here. Give him a round of applause. (Applause.) Your Congressman, Jim Moran, is here. (Applause.)

And before we came out, I had a chance to meet with Amirah and her mom, but also a couple other of your classmates. Brendan Craig is here, and his dad. (Applause.) And also Rina Castaneda and her mom. (Applause.) Let me just say, they represented you really well. Those were three impressive seniors. Thanks for hanging out with me on a Friday. I know that you're happy not because I'm here. There are seniors in the crowd -- (applause) -- and you're excited about graduating. I know the juniors are excited to get the seniors -- (applause) -- they're excited to get the seniors out so they'll be at the top of the heap.

You've got prom coming up. (Applause.) I guess you've already got your dress all picked out, huh? (Laughter.) All right. You've got final exams.

AUDIENCE: Booo --

THE PRESIDENT: You've got a great summer coming up. (Applause.) And then, more than 90 percent of this year's seniors from this school are going to some sort of post-secondary education, whether it is a 4-year college, community college, vocational. (Applause.) That makes us proud. That is a testament to your principal, who is doing a great job. So we're very proud of him. Thank you. (Applause.)

Now, I know a lot of you -- certainly a lot of your parents -- are focused on how you're going to pay for college. And that's what I was talking to your classmates and some of your parents about. That's why I'm here. But first, I want to say something about the economy that we're going to be working to rebuild for you -- because not only do we want you to have a good education, we want to make sure that you're getting a job after you graduate. (Applause.)

Now, this morning, we learned that our economy created 130,000 private sector jobs in April. And the unemployment rate ticked down again. So after the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, our businesses have now created more than 4.2 million new jobs over the last 26 months -- more than 1 million jobs in the last six months alone. (Applause.)

So that's the good news. But there are still a lot of folks out of work, which means that we've got to do more. If we're going to recover all the jobs that were lost during the recession, and if we're going to build a secure economy that strengthens the middle class, then we're going to have to do more.

And that's why, next week, I'm going to urge Congress, as they start getting back to work, to take some actions on some common-sense ideas, right now, that can accelerate even more job growth. That's what we need, and my message to Congress is going to be, just saying "no" to ideas that will create new jobs is not an option. There's too much at stake for us not to all be rowing in the same direction. And that's true for you and that's true for your parents. (Applause.)

Now, that's in the short term. But in the long run, the most important thing we can do for our economy is to give all of you and all Americans the best education possible. That's the most important thing we can do. (Applause.) That means helping our schools hire and reward the best teachers -- and you've got some great teachers here. (Applause.) That means stepping up our focus on math and science -- something I tell Malia and Sasha every day. (Applause.) You're solid on math? Okay, I like to hear that. (Laughter.) That means giving more Americans the chance to learn the skills that businesses are looking for right now. And in the 21st century, it also means higher education cannot be a luxury -- it is an economic imperative that every American should be able to afford.

Now, my grandfather had the chance to go to college because this country decided that every returning veteran of World War II should be able to afford it. And on a bipartisan basis, the GI Bill was created that allowed him to go to college. My mother was able to raise two kids by herself because she was also able to get grants and loans to work her way through school. Michelle and I are only where we are because scholarships and student loans gave us a shot at a great education. We didn't come from a wealthy background, but this country gave us a chance at a good education.

This country has always made a commitment to put a good education within the reach of everybody who is willing to work for it. That's what makes us special. That's the kind of investment in our own people that helped us lead the world in business and science and technology and medicine. That's what made us an economic superpower.

But, unfortunately, since you guys were born -- which doesn't seem that long ago to me -- (laughter) -- maybe it does to you -- the cost of going to college has more than doubled. And that means students have to take out more loans. It's now to the point where the average student who borrows to pay for college graduates with about \$25,000 worth of debt -- \$25,000. And Americans now owe more for their student loans than they do on their credit cards.

Now, I want to give you guys some relief from that debt. I don't want you to start off life saddled with debt. And I don't want your parents to be taking on so much debt as well. (Applause.) Because when you start off already owing a lot of money graduating from school it means making a lot of really tough choices, like maybe waiting longer to buy a house, or to start a family, or to chase that career that you really want.

And like I said, Michelle and I know about this. We graduated from college and law school with a truckload of student loan debt. We got married and together we got poorer. (Laughter.) After we graduated, we were lucky enough to land good jobs, so it was still a great investment for us to go to college and law school. But we only finished paying off our student loans about eight years ago. And I know some of your teachers here probably can relate.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Woohoo! (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: When we should have been starting to save up for Malia's and Sasha's college educations, we were still paying off our educations.

So we can't price the middle class out of a higher education. We've got to make college more affordable. That's why we fixed a broken student loan system that was giving tens of billions of dollars to big banks, and we said, let's use that money to help more people afford college. That's why we strengthened aid for low-income students. (Applause.) That's why we fought to set up a new,

independent consumer watchdog agency that's now working with every student and their parents to access a simple factsheet on student loans and financial aid, so you can make your own choices, the best choices, about how to pay for college. We call it "Know Before You Owe." Know before you owe.

But making college more affordable isn't something government can or should do alone. I was mentioning to your classmates, we're talking to colleges and universities about doing their part. And I've told Congress to steer federal aid to schools that keep tuition affordable and provide good value and serve their students well. If colleges and universities can't stop their costs from going up, then the funding they get from taxpayers, it should go down. We should steer it to the schools that are really giving students the best deal.

And states have to do their part by making higher education a higher priority in their budgets. Last year, over 40 states cut their higher education spending. And these cuts have been among the largest drivers of public college tuition increases over the past decade. So we've told states, if you can find new ways to bring down the cost of college and make it easier for students to graduate, then we're going to help you do it -- which is good news. (Applause.)

Now, Congress also has to do its part. (Applause.) Right now, that means preventing the interest rates on federal student loans from doubling, which would make it harder for you to pay for college next year. The three classmates of yours that I met, they're all getting Stafford loans to help pay for college. And these Stafford loans, right now, have a very low interest rate, because five years ago Congress cut the rate for these student loans in half. That was a good idea. It made college more affordable. But here's the bad news ---

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Uh-oh.

THE PRESIDENT: Uh-oh. (Laughter.) On July 1st -- less than two months from now -- that rate cut expires, and interest rates on those loans will double overnight.

AUDIENCE: Booo --

THE PRESIDENT: That's not good. For each year that college [sic] doesn't act, the average student with these Stafford loans will rack up an additional \$1,000 in debt. That's like a \$1,000 tax hike for more than 7 million students across America.

Now, let me ask, is that something that you can afford if you're going to college?

AUDIENCE: No!

THE PRESIDENT: You guys shouldn't have to pay an extra \$1,000 just because Congress can't get its act together. This should be a no-brainer. This is something that we need to get done.

So the good news is, the Senate will vote next week on a bill that would keep student loan rates from doubling. And some Republican senators look like they might support it. I'm ready to work with them to make it happen. But unfortunately, rather than find a bipartisan way to fix this problem, the House Republicans are saying they're only going to prevent these rates from doubling if they can cut things like preventive health care for women instead. So --

AUDIENCE: Booo --

THE PRESIDENT: That's not good. We shouldn't have to choose between women having preventive health care and young people keeping their student loan rates low. (Applause.)

Some of the Republicans in the House are coming up with all sorts of different reasons why we should just let these rates double. One of them compared student loans to a "stage three cancer of socialism," whatever that means. I don't know. (Laughter.) Another warned that this is all about giving you a "free college education," which doesn't make sense because, of course, loans aren't free; you've got to pay them back. The spokesman for the Speaker of the House said that we were -- meaning me -- we're just talking about student loans to distract folks from the economy. Now, this makes no sense because this is all about the economy. (Applause.) Making sure our young people can earn the best possible education -- that's one of the best things we can do for the economy. Making sure college is available to everyone and not just a few at the top -- that's one of the best things we can do for our economy.

And I don't think it's fair when they suggest that students like you should pay more so we can bring down deficits that they helped to run up over the past decade. They just voted -- (applause) -- we've got to do something about our deficits. We paid for two wars with a credit card -- debt that you're going to have to pay off. We gave two tax cuts to folks that don't need it and weren't asking for it. The Republicans in the House just voted to keep giving billions of taxpayer dollars every year to big oil companies raking in record profits. They just voted to let millionaires and billionaires keep paying lower tax rates than middle-class workers. They even voted to give an average tax cut of at least \$150,000 to every millionaire in America. And they want you to pay an extra \$1,000 a year for college.

AUDIENCE: Boo --

THE PRESIDENT: No, no, that doesn't make sense. In America, we admire success. We aspire to it. I was talking to folks -- Rina wants to study business, and I'm confident she's going to be really wealthy some day and -- (applause) -- we want all of you to work and hustle and study your tails off and achieve your dreams. But America is not just about protecting a few people who are doing well. America is about giving everybody a chance to do well. That's what makes us strong. That's what the American Dream is all about. (Applause.) Everybody here, you're only here, you're only succeeding because somebody, somewhere, felt a responsibility not just to themselves, not even just to their own families, but to the country as a whole. And now it's our turn to be responsible. It's our turn to keep that promise alive for the next generation.

So if you agree with me, then I need all of you -- I see a lot of cell phones here and a lot of -- (laughter) -- all kinds of stuff -- (laughter) -- I want you to send a message to Congress. Tell them, "don't double my rate." You should -- "don't double my rate." You should call them, you should e-mail them, write on their Facebook page, tweet them. (Applause.) Teach your parents how to tweet. (Laughter.) And use the hashtag #dontdoublemyrate. Don't double my rate. Don't double it. (Applause.) I asked some students at the University of North Carolina and the University of Colorado and the University of Iowa to do this last week, and they got it trending worldwide for a while. There were, of course -- there were more of them than there were of you. I had Jimmy Fallon's help. (Laughter.)

But what I do expect from each of you on this and every other issue that you come to care about -- I want you guys to realize your voice makes a difference. Your voice matters. I know sometimes it seems like it doesn't, but I guarantee you, members of Congress, they pay attention. And if they start getting a lot of folks telling them they care deeply about something, it changes their mind. Sometimes, it changes their vote. Don't let anybody tell you otherwise.

It doesn't matter how old you are, what you look like, where you come from, or how much you have -- your voice can make a difference. (Applause.) So tell Congress now is not the time to double your interest on your student loans. Now is the time to double down on our smart investments in building a strong and secure middle class. Now is the time to double down on building an America that lasts. And if we work together, I guarantee you we will meet our challenges.

When I met your classmates, when I look out at your faces, it gives me confidence about our future. (Applause.) I believe in you. And I believe you're going to do great things. And I believe your generation will remind the world just why it is America is the greatest nation on Earth.

Thank you, everybody. God bless you. (Applause.)

GrantStation

National Funding Opportunities

Support for Tourism Sites Throughout the World [Tourism Cares Worldwide Grant Program](#)
Tourism Cares is a U.S.-based nonprofit IRS 501 (c)(3) public charity, supported primarily by the travel, tourism, and hospitality industry, which is dedicated to preserving the travel experience for future generations. The Tourism Cares Worldwide Grant Program provides grants to nonprofit tax-exempt, public charities throughout the world that conserve, preserve, or restore tourism-related sites of exceptional cultural, historic, or natural significance. In 2012 the program will provide twelve grants of \$10,000 each for brick-and-mortar capital improvement projects or educational programs that will enhance interpretation of the site. The upcoming deadline for the letter of inquiry online application process is July 2, 2012 at 5 pm Eastern Time. Visit the Tourism Cares website for Eligibility Criteria, Grant Application Process, Frequently Asked Questions, and a link to access the online Worldwide Grant Application.

Model Youth Programs Funded [American Legion Child Welfare Foundation](#)

The mission of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is to provide nonprofit organizations with a means to educate the public about the needs of children across the United States. The Foundation supports organizations that contribute to the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual welfare of children through the dissemination of information about new and innovative programs designed to benefit youth, or through the dissemination of information already possessed by well-established organizations. Grant requests should have the potential of helping American children in a broad geographic area (more than one state). Application forms must be postmarked no later than July 15, 2012. Specific application procedures are available on the Foundation's website.

Grants Promote No-Kill Animal Shelters [Maddie's Fund](#)

The goal of Maddie's Fund is to help build a no-kill nation where all healthy and treatable shelter dogs and cats find loving new homes. To achieve this goal, Maddie's Fund is investing its resources in building community collaborations where animal welfare organizations come together to develop successful models of lifesaving, in veterinary colleges to help shelter medicine become part of the veterinary curriculum to train veterinarians to save the lives of sick and injured dogs and cats in animal shelters, and in the implementation of a national effort to promote accountability and transparency in animal shelter operations. Details on each of the Fund's grant programs are available on the Fund's website.

Environmental Conservation Initiatives Supported [Wallace Genetic Foundation](#)

The Wallace Genetic Foundation provides grants to nonprofit organizations nationwide that believe in the long-term conservation of the soil and of the environment, rather than exploitation of natural resources for temporary profits. Specific areas of interest include the following:

sustainable agriculture, protection of farmland near cities, conservation of natural resources, biodiversity protection, reduction of environmental toxins, and global climate issues. Grants generally range from \$25,000 to \$40,000. Requests may be submitted throughout the year. Application guidelines and forms are available on the Foundation's website.

Regional Funding Opportunities

Funds for K-9 Environmental Education in Delaware and New Jersey

[PSEG Environmental Education Grant Program](#)

The PSEG Environmental Education Grant Program helps to inspire teachers in Delaware and New Jersey to implement an interdisciplinary approach to teaching about the environment. The goal of the program is to provide support to classroom teachers who strive to link their students' understanding of science, mathematics, and/or technology concepts with an enthusiasm and appreciation for the environment. K-9 educators in communities served by the company in New Jersey, as well as communities throughout Delaware, are eligible to apply for grants of up to \$3,500. Applications must be postmarked by June 15, 2012. Visit the PSEG website to learn more about the program and download the application form.

Grants Enhance Health and Education in Louisiana

[Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation](#)

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation offers Impact Grants to nonprofit organizations in Louisiana that address the health and education needs of their communities. In the health area, support is provided to organizations focused on improving public health, reducing barriers to care for the uninsured, or conducting research to prevent or cure disease. Particular consideration is given to organizations that address specific populations, such as those in rural areas, children, seniors, or those who are at risk and underserved. Priority in the education area is given to organizations focused on increasing health literacy, the training of medical professionals, or the education of youth. The upcoming application deadline for Impact Grants is July 15, 2012. Visit the Foundation's website to review the funding guidelines and download the application forms.

Support for Youth Services in Colorado

[LibertyGives Foundation](#)

The LibertyGives Foundation provides grants to nonprofit organizations throughout the state of Colorado. The Foundation's current focus is on supporting causes benefiting underprivileged and at-risk youth in the state, with an emphasis on proactive and preventative services. Grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$150,000 are offered to organizations in Colorado that address the Foundation's priority area by providing services to underserved youth. The application deadline for 2012 is June 29. Visit the Foundation's website to submit an online application.

California Oral Health Programs Funded

[California Dental Association Foundation](#)

The California Dental Association (CDA) Foundation's mission is to improve the oral health of all Californians by supporting the dental profession and its efforts to meet community needs. The CDA Foundation Grant Program provides support to community nonprofit organizations and clinics that address oral health care issues, with emphasis on projects targeting vulnerable people, including children, uninsured families, caregivers, and the elderly. Grants of up to \$25,000 are available in the following categories: preventive care, consumer education, restorative care, fluoridation, and other programs (other than mobile) that clearly demonstrate methods for

increasing access to oral health care. (There is a separate grant program that supports nonprofit mobile dental projects.) Letters of inquiry will be accepted from May 15 to July 15, 2012. Visit the Foundation's website to download the application guidelines.

Federal Grant and Loan Programs

Grants Support Teen Court Substance Abuse Treatment Services

Department of Health and Human Services

The Teen Court Program provides support for efforts focused on preventing crimes by diverting youth with substance abuse treatment needs from deeper penetration into the traditional juvenile justice system. Proposed substance abuse treatment services and related recovery support services will be targeted to youth with substance abuse or co-occurring treatment needs involved in a teen court program, and will be designed to reduce substance use, reduce criminal activity, improve health and quality of life, and increase productivity. The application deadline is May 30, 2012.

Efforts Addressing the Needs of Homeless Veterans Funded **Department of Veterans Affairs**

The Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program provides support for efforts to end homelessness among veterans. Proposed efforts should address one of the following priorities: promote increased housing stabilization by utilizing the "Transition in Place" housing model; provide transitional housing and services for homeless veterans in certain rural areas; provide transitional housing and services on Indian tribal property; and create transitional housing and services that are sensitive to the needs of justice-involved homeless veterans (i.e., veterans who are not incarcerated but are involved in the criminal justice system). The application deadline is May 30, 2012.

Assistance Provided for Renewable Energy Infrastructure **Department of Agriculture**

The Repowering Assistance Program provides support to eligible biorefineries to help offset the costs associated with converting existing fossil fuel systems to renewable biomass fuel systems or with producing new energy from renewable biomass. Specifically, reimbursement payments are made for eligible post-application costs incurred during the construction phase of the repowering project. See the [full announcement](#) for additional information. The application period is February 2 to June 1, 2012.

Activities Expanding Charter Schools Supported **Department of Education**

The Charter Schools Program provides support to eligible non-state educational agencies for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of charter schools. Proposed activities may also address the invitational priority of serving students from persistently low-performing schools. Special consideration may be given to activities that address the following competitive preference priorities: improving achievement and high school graduation rates, promoting diversity, improving productivity, and supporting military families. The application deadline is June 6, 2012.

BIA role in Apache feud questioned Tribal judge says agency undermined tribe's court

[5 comments](#) by **Dennis Wagner** - May. 4, 2012 10:50 PM The Republic | [azcentral.com](#)

Despite declaring neutrality out of respect for Native American sovereignty, the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs is quietly taking sides in a power struggle that has torn apart tribal government on the Fort Apache Reservation, according to records obtained by *The Arizona Republic*.

Since the leadership dispute began in December, Chairman Ronnie Lupe has defied a suspension vote by the Tribal Council and an arrest warrant issued by the chief judge for the White Mountain Apache Tribe. Lupe and tribal attorneys contend that those orders violate the tribal constitution and are therefore moot.

Meanwhile, a March 7 letter written by Chief Judge Reagan Armstrong Sr. to Bryan Bowker, regional director at the Bureau of Indian Affairs, suggests that the agency has undermined Tribal Court authority. Armstrong, who has warned of potential violence, complained to Bowker that Warren Youngman, BIA assistant special agent in charge for Arizona, instructed the police chief in Whiteriver not to arrest Lupe because federal authorities recognize him as the Apache leader.

Separate correspondence between Lupe and Bowker says the BIA offered to mediate the conflict. That proposal was accepted by five council members, who said the tribe is in crisis, but rejected by the chairman as an invasion of tribal sovereignty. However, Lupe subsequently asked for a federal review of the Tribal Court led by Armstrong, and the bureau agreed to conduct that inquiry.

Relations between the U.S. government and American Indian tribes are regulated by a maze of treaties, court decisions and federal laws.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, an agency of the Interior Department, is responsible for providing services and overseeing contracts with 566 federally recognized tribes.

Nedra Darling, a BIA spokeswoman in Washington, D.C., said in an e-mail: "As a matter of policy, the (Interior) Department does not involve itself in the selection of tribal leaders and defers to tribal decisions when resolving leadership disputes.

"With respect to public safety, the department is able and prepared to respond to issues where necessary. We have no reason to believe that this particular dispute will result in a threat to public safety at this time."

Armstrong said in a brief interview that the BIA has failed to carry out its oversight responsibility on the reservation near Show Low. "They should truly act like a trust agent instead of deceiving everybody," he added.

A leadership fight

Apache governance was thrown into chaos four months ago when a majority of Tribal Council members voted to suspend Lupe for alleged misconduct. Among the allegations: failure to carry out resolutions, improper appointment of a chief judge and interference with tribal-housing operations.

A political battle erupted under a tribal constitution that does not clearly delineate the separation of powers among the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government.

Reservation services have continued during the legal standoff, with Lupe functioning as leader. But there is disagreement as to his legitimacy, compounded by uncertainty about the BIA's role.

The Apaches, like many Native American tribes, operate their justice system under a federal contract using U.S. tax dollars. Indian nations in the United States are considered quasi-sovereign with a right of self-determination but are subject to federal laws and oversight.

The feud erupted when council members leveled numerous allegations against the chairman and voted to suspend him.

Lupe says that maneuver was an illegal coup attempt directed by Vice Mayor Timothy Hinton Sr. and others. The council majority contends that the chairman had begun to rule as a dictator in violation of tribal law.

A tug-of-war ensued. When Lupe refused to accept his suspension, the council majority promoted Armstrong to chief judge and asked for a ruling against Lupe.

Armstrong ordered the chairman to cease acting as Apache leader. Lupe obtained a letter from the tribe's lawyer, who concluded that Armstrong's legal decisions were incorrect and that the court orders were invalid.

Armstrong issued a warrant for Lupe and a Jan. 26 notice to Police Chief Ray Burnette ordering the arrest of the chairman to "reduce the possibilities of violence between all parties involved."

The police chief answered that he had been advised by the tribe's attorney to ignore court directives. Burnette also wrote that he had been warned that he might be fired and arrested amid the dispute and was considering filing criminal charges of threats and extortion. It was unclear who made the threats, and Burnette did not return phone calls.

Officers, apparently unaware that the police chief decided not to arrest Lupe, cited and released the tribe's 82-year-old chairman a week later. According to a police report, they elected not to jail Lupe because of his age and "due to him being a high-profile official."

Amid the turmoil, federal authorities sent a letter to Lupe asking if the Apache Tribe would like assistance resolving the dispute. In a Feb. 13 response, Lupe wrote, "I have no interest in raising the white flag and embarrassing our people."

"The White Mountain Apache Tribe ... is still standing strong. Short of all-out war, bloodshed or total anarchy, the bureau would be wise to stay away from this internal political dispute."

BIA probe requested

The legal feud spread to recent tribal elections. Several council candidates who oppose Lupe were removed from primary ballots in March by the Apache's election commission. Armstrong

found that their civil rights were violated and issued orders to postpone the vote, but balloting was conducted anyway.

Just last week, Armstrong said, he ordered the chairman and other officials to appear in court for a hearing, but none of them showed up.

In a letter to the BIA, Armstrong said the federal agency has a duty to prevent corruption, support the rule of law and uphold the rights of voters subjected to an "unlawful election."

Although Lupe forcefully warned the BIA not to interfere with Apache sovereignty, records show he later asked the bureau to investigate the Tribal Court, declaring in a March 22 letter that "the judge is out of control." A week later, the BIA announced that a formal review of the court would be conducted.

Lupe said in his e-mail to the newspaper that asking the federal government to review court actions was not inconsistent with his staunch position on tribal sovereignty. He said the Apache justice system operates under a U.S. contract that requires BIA oversight.

He said Armstrong has displayed an "unprecedented abuse of judicial power," violating the tribe's judicial code and constitution, so it is appropriate for the federal government to intercede.

Lupe said he believes the power struggle is subsiding.

"In my opinion, this sorry chapter in the history of the White Mountain Apache Tribe came to a close on April 4 with the results of the general election," he wrote.

"The final verse will be written after the new council is sworn in on May 2. I look forward to a bright future based on progress for the tribe rather than partisan politics."

Read more: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2012/04/19/20120419bia-role-apache-feud-questioned.html#ixzz1u0dgLIR1>

Mohawk John Kane to UN Rapporteur: Process is a farce Monday, May 7, 2012

As the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples begins in New York, some Native people living on the land say they are cancelling plans to attend due to this year's focus on rhetoric -- rather than the life-threatening issues facing Native people, from fracking, uranium mining and coal fired power plants, to deforestation, the militarization of homelands and theft of water rights.

John Kane, Mohawk and radio host of Lets Talk Native Pride, challenges the rhetoric and challenges countries of the world to trade directly with sovereign Indian Nations and honor their passports. Kane responds to the sessions of the United Nations Rapporteur for Indigenous Peoples James Anaya held across the US in April and May.

Kane said, "I know most Native people want to throw a 'love-fest' for the 'special' rapporteur. But suggesting ways for the US to make gestures to 'heal our wounds' is neither shocking or bold. Let's see Mr. Anaya say what everyone already knows: that the US is guilty of genocide and crimes against humanity or at very least should face the charges."

By John Kane, Mohawk

Censored News

We are not matriarchal but rather matrilineal. In our ways men and women share evenly but distinctly in the affairs of our people.

Anaya does not recognize the people. He can't see a tree, only a forest. In fact he may not even see the forest but rather the maple or oak or the redwood as a species. What happens to the tree or the individual is not what is important to this guy. For him it is all about the "tribe" and the "tribal leaders."

This is why it is the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, not People. Informed consent from these guys checks the box.

The failure of the world, including the US and including Mr. Anaya to not understand that our sovereignty is a birthright, that we are BORN with the right to our freedom, is what makes this whole process a farce.

We were never an institutionalized people. Our idea of self governance was based on participation. We did not have a chief system but rather a clan system. We never divested ourselves of our birthright to empower a chief, a council, the state or the feds. We allowed people to carry our voices not speak for us. We allowed selected persons to communicate our will, not dictate it to us and others.

Anaya said in a statement, "I heard almost universal calls from indigenous nations and tribes across the country that the Government respect tribal sovereignty."

The "Government" my ass!

It's about time other nations stepped up and asked the question: When did Native people stop being sovereign?

If the rest of the world would stop quaking in their boots every time the US says their "Indian Problem" is a domestic issue, then perhaps there could be progress.

Let one of you dare to trade with us. Let one of you fight to honor our passports. Let one of you establish formal diplomatic relations or provide financing, education or genuine humanitarian aid for our most impoverished communities.

John Kane jmkane1220@aol.com

Listen online to Lets Talk Native Pride <http://letstalknativepride.blogspot.com/>

Previous post: Troubling questions for the UN Rapporteur, with statement from Ofelia Rivas, O'odham:

<http://www.bsnorrell.blogspot.com/2012/04/troubling-questions-for-un-rapporteur.html>

Posted by brendanorrell@gmail.com at 3:34 PM

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[John Kane](#) said...

I know most Native people want to throw a "love-fest" for the "special" rapporteur. But suggesting ways for the US to make gestures to "heal our wounds" is neither shocking or bold. Let's see Mr. Anaya say what everyone already knows: that the US is guilty of genocide and crimes against humanity or at very least should face the charges.

[May 7, 2012 9:58 PM](#)

[candace ducheneaux](#) said...

hello john kane
i am n total agreement w/ ur stance

we need 2 establish an entente w/ other nations of the world

most especially our bros of the south
most especially hugo chavez of venezuela
who has already sent genuine humanitarian aid 2 the mpoverished communities of lakota ppl
n the form of heating asst from the venezuelan owned company citgo
chavez has shown recognition of the xistence of the lakota ppl n our relationship by publically
stating 'long live sitting bull'
our renownd hunkpapa chief

it would b a wise n advantageous move
2 ask thru ndigenous grassroots networks
4 recognition by n admittance n2 celac
an org of all western hemisphere countries xcept the us n canada
representn an aggregate pop of 600,000,000 ppl

we could ask their support
physical n finanacial
n our quest 4 tru sovereign governance
n total dcolonization
resistance from the colonizer is certain

n return we offer them mbassies/headqtrs on all turtle island rezzes
plus land use privileges w/ landed tribes
n fulfillment of the eagle n condor prophesy

May 8, 2012 11:46 AM

<http://www.bsnorrell.blogspot.com/2012/05/mohawk-john-kane-to-un-rapporteur.html>

Please see attached policy brief regarding the **Lifeline Pilot opportunity through the FCC.**

Attachments: [image001.jpg](#) [Lifelin](#)

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New Mexico: EPA May Throw Wrench In Plans To Build Highly-Contested

Uranium Mine - Indigenous People

indigenoupeoplesissues.com

The Navajo Nation is against the proposed uranium mine near Church Rock, New Mexico that would impact the water