



Office of the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission

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Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission starts assessment of treatment of Navajo Citizen by border town law enforcement.

St. Michaels, Navajo Nation (AZ) - The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission started their public hearings to assess treatment of Navajo citizens by law enforcement in border towns.

December 3, 2014 the NNHRC traveled to Torreon, and Cuba, NM to discuss the treatment of Navajo citizens by local border town law enforcement. Representatives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation were present at the Torreon, and Cuba public hearings.

A testimony from a Torreon resident stated that "Cuba Police officers are taking out inebriates and have them beat each other." There have been many allegations of Cuba Police department and their negative treatment of the Navajo citizens. "Civil Rights issues are more difficult to prove when the allegations are 4-5 years ago." stated Benedict Bourgeois, of the FBI. The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission is currently investigating one of the allegations of Cuba Police department.

On Thursday, December 4, 2014, the NNHRC hosted a public hearing in Albuquerque, NM, at the Albuquerque Indian Center. Alan Armijo, director of constituent services represented Mayor Richard Berry at the public hearing. Annabelle Romeo deputy director for the city human rights office and Gabriel Compose of the city human rights office and Albuquerque Police department Commander Donavon Olvera and Officer Gabriel Claw were all present at the public hearing.

Fifteen people testified about their experience with Albuquerque police department. Testimonies vary between each person but have one thing in common, they feel and strongly believe the APD is treating them differently because they are Navajo.

The NNHRC will continue to hold public hearings on the treatment of Navajo citizens by border town law enforcement. The next public hearing will be in Gallup, NM on January 7th, 2015 and January 8th, 2015 at Flagstaff, AZ.

For more information about Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission public hearing on the treatment of Navajo citizens by law enforcement in border towns please contact the NNHRC office at 928-871-7436.

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