



## OFFICE OF NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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**PRESS RELEASE:**  
**November 5, 2015**

**Thematic hearing to protect Indigenous Cultural and Religious Rights was granted in Washington, D.C. by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.**

St. Michaels, Navajo Nation (Ariz.) – On Sunday, September 20, 2015, the Office of Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission (ONNHRC) received word from the Organization of American States (OAS) Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) the request for a thematic hearing was granted.

The thematic hearing is part of the ongoing effort with the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law Indigenous Law and Policy Program to protect the San Francisco Peaks (Peaks) from further discretion. The ONNHRC invited IACHR commissioner Rose-Marie Belle Antoine, who also is the OAS Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous People, for an academic event on the Navajo Nation.

Antoine and her legal staff conducted a two-day visit that includes site visits to Mount Taylor, Oak Flats, and the Peaks. The two-day visit was from June 18-19, 2015.

The thematic hearing was held on October 23, 2015, representatives from the Navajo Nation, San Carlos Apache, and Pueblo of Laguna, presented information on the lack of protection from the United States pertaining to sacred sites from extractive industries and development.

The Navajo Nation presentation was on the effect of using reclaimed waste water to make artificial snow on Dook'osłííd, San Francisco Peak. San Carlos Apache presented on Oak Flats and copper mine project that will affect the area. Pueblo of Laguna presented on the effects of uranium mine and other extractive projects that will affect Mount Taylor.

For additional information about the thematic hearing, please contact the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission at (928) 871-7436 or [www.nnhrc.navajo-nsn.gov](http://www.nnhrc.navajo-nsn.gov).

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