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CHAIRMAN

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HOPI TRIBE PETITION
UN SESSION ON RIGHTS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN GENEVA
ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS
DUE TO ILLEGAL SALE OF STOLEN HOPI CULTURAL PATRIMONY IN FRANCE

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For Immediate Release

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The Hopi Tribe is proud to announce that Mr. Ronald Honyumtewa, Chief Ranger, Hopi Resource Enforcement will be speaking on the behalf of the Hopi people at the upcoming 8th Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples panel titled “Reversing the Plunder: Working for an International Mechanism for Repatriation of Ceremonial Objects and Human Remains” on July 22, 2015.

Chairman Herman G. Honanie and the Hopi Tribal Council fully support the voice of the Hopi people at the United Nations and stated, ***“We are resolved and will not compromise our position that the illegal transport and sale of Hopi Cultural Patrimony must cease.”***

The Hopi Tribe is the oldest surviving culture in the Americas with more than 14,000 members and one that has remained steadfast to its tradition in agriculture, culture and spirituality. The Hopi people continue to uphold the “Hopi Way” of “cooperation, humility, hard work and stewardship”.

Mr. Honyumtewa is Dawawungwa (Sun) Clan from Lower Moencopi village. He was born and raised in an agricultural setting learning his male roles in the ceremonial and cultural ways of the Hopi people. Mr. Honyumtewa currently serves the public as the Chief Ranger and is tasked with investigation and enforcement of illegal of cultural and ceremonial objects.

On July 3, 2015 the Hopi Tribe received accreditation from Antti Korkeakivi, Chief of the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section of the United Nations High Commission of Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland. While in Geneva, Mr. Honyumtewa will meet with Honor Keeler of the IITC Working Group; attend indigenous caucus meetings; participate in a panel discussion as a Pacific Regional Representative; as well as courtesy meetings with local Geneva officials (To be confirmed.)

Emphasized throughout the UN session, Mr. Honyumtewa will speak to the legal, cultural and efforts on the repatriation of sacred ceremonial objects lost through auction sales in Paris, France and other international venues.

This past year the AAIA Working Group on International Repatriation, several Native American Nations, the International Indian Treaty Council and Indigenous Peoples called for a formation of an Expert Working Group to the U.N. Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMPRIP). See <http://bit.ly/1eHt22O>

For more information, go to www.hopi-nsn.gov or on Twitter @TheHopiTribe.

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