HOPIS DEMAND RETURN OF SACRED OBJECTS AT AUCTION IN PARIS

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On May 12, 2015 the Hopi Tribe received notice from Eric Wilson, BIA International Affairs Coordinator, that the U.S. Embassy in Paris, France learned of another auction to be held by the EVE Auction House on June 1, 2015. Included in the auction catalog are religious objects of Native-American tribal origin.

The Hopi Tribe has been vigorously asserting its tribal sovereignty and rights in the international arena and in Paris, France, to protect objects sacred to the Hopi people, particularly our "katsina friends".

The Hopi Tribe is again requesting support from Arizona Senators John McCain and Jeff Flake, along with all of the members of the Arizona Congressional Delegation, to direct the U.S. State Department, the U. S. Department of Justice, the F.B.I. and other federal agencies to assist the Hopi Tribe for a voluntary return of auction objects identified to be of Hopi origin to the Hopi Tribe.

The Hopi Tribal Council has consistently directed its Executive Officers to pursue whatever means as necessary to stop our "katsina friends" from being illegally sold at auctions and forever lost in private collections.

Chairman Herman G. Honanie stated "We need to bring all our katsina friends home to their rightful place on the Hopi lands. Hopi is absolute in its stance that these auctions must cease. We call on all local, state and federal agencies to aid our efforts in recovering our sacred katsina friends. They belong on Hopi and must be returned."

The Hopi Tribe is taking all necessary steps in addressing this matter. A special meeting is scheduled with the Hopi Tribal Council on May 21, 2015 to discuss the June 1, EVE Auction in Paris, France.

Note to the media: Please refrain from publishing images of "katsina friends" and from using the word "mask" in your reporting.

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