



## NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

P.O. Box 1689  
Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona) 86515  
Phone: (928)871-7436 Fax: (928)871-7437  
www.nnhrc.navajo-nsn.gov

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Media Contact: Rachele Todea  
rtodea@navajo-nsn.gov

### **NNHRC and two U.N. Special Rapporteur events regarding the implementation of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

ST. MICHAELS, Ariz.—The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission will co-host one event and will support another for the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples S. James Anaya's on April 26 – 27, 2012, at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona (USA). The two-day event will be part of the U.N. Special Rapporteur's official visit to the United States from April 23, 2012 to May 4, 2012. Other consultations will be held around the country during his official visit.

First, on Thursday morning on April 26, 2012, NNHRC, along with the University of Arizona's Indigenous Peoples Law & Policy Program, will co-host a meeting for invited indigenous leaders from indigenous nations located in Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico, including the Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo and the Fort Sill Apache Tribe with the U.N. Special Rapporteur Anaya. The official letter of invite from the Navajo Nation Speaker Johnny Naize to the indigenous leaders was sent on March 9, 2012.

The morning meeting among indigenous leaders and Anaya is to discuss the content, meaning, and implications of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on indigenous nations in order to facilitate the official discussion of the U.N. Special Rapporteur's Consultation Conference which will follow.

#### **U.N. Special Rapporteur's Consultation Conference**

Later in the afternoon on April 26, 2012, NNHRC will support the U.N. Special Rapporteur's Consultation Conference, "The Significance of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples," for the southwest region of the United States, along with the University of Arizona's Indigenous Peoples Law & Policy Program, The Ford Foundation, and the National Congress of American Indians scheduled for April 26-27, 2012, at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law in Tucson, Ariz.

The purpose of the UNSR Consultation Conference with the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples S. James Anaya is to receive and review information from indigenous peoples, tribal nations and tribal organizations on achieving the implementation of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The conference will seek to draw out specific examples of where condition are in line with the U.N. Declaration and where they are not, as well as specific proposals for needed reforms, according to the conference information.

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At the UNSR Conference Consultation, Anaya will hear testimony from select panelists. The panelists will be asked to submit a short written paper emphasizing one issue the U.N. Declaration may be able to address through implementation by the U.S. government about four main themes. The themes are:

- Land and resources;
- Social and economic development including health and education;
- Self-government; and
- Language, culture, and sacred sites.

NNHRC Commissioner Steve Darden will be a panelist for the language, culture and sacred sites topic to discuss the Navajo sacred site, the San Francisco Peaks, and NNHRC Executive Director Leonard Gorman will serve as the panel moderator.

“In addition to the panel issues, there will be an open session during which registered participants may raise other issues or concerns to the Special Rapporteur,” according to the conference agenda. “The Special Rapporteur invites discussion of the rights and special concerns of indigenous women and children in relation to the issues addressed.”

Anaya was appointed to the U.N. Human Rights Council in 2008 as the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and is a Regents’ professor and a James J. Lenoir professor of human rights law at the University of Arizona’s James E. Rogers College of Law. As Special Rapporteur, Anaya reports to the U.N. Human Rights Council on human rights situations of indigenous peoples in selected countries, addresses alleged violations of indigenous peoples’ rights by way of communication with governments and promotes good practices between indigenous peoples and states.

*For more information about the indigenous leaders meeting, contact Rodney L. Tahe, NNHRC Policy Analyst, at (928) 871-7436. Invite only.*

*For more information about participation at the UNSR Consultation Conference, contact Seanna Howard, IPLP staff attorney and conference coordinator, at (520) 626-8223.*

*For registration and participation at the UNSR Consultation Conference, **register by April 9, 2012** at [www.law.arizona.edu/depts/iplp/UNSRConference](http://www.law.arizona.edu/depts/iplp/UNSRConference).*

*The host hotel is the Marriott University Park, call (800)228-9290 for the conference rate. **The group name is: IPLP/United Nations Conference.** The conference rate cut-off date is **March 26, 2012.***

**WHO:** United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
University of Arizona Indigenous Peoples Law & Policy Program

**SUPPORT:** The Ford Foundation  
Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission  
National Congress of American Indians

**WHAT:** U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples will hear testimony from select panelists from indigenous people, tribal nations and tribal organizations on achieving the implementation of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the U.N. Special Rapporteur's Consultation Conference, "**The Significance of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.**" To participate at the U.N. Special Rapporteur's Consultation Conference, registration is required.

**REGISTER:** [www.law.arizona.edu/depts/iplp/UNSRConference](http://www.law.arizona.edu/depts/iplp/UNSRConference).

**DEADLINE: April 9, 2012**  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

**WHEN:** **THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2012**  
**1 p.m.**  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2012**  
**8 a.m.**

**WHERE:** University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law, **Room 164**  
1201 E. Speedway Blvd.  
Tucson, Ariz. (USA)  
**OPEN PRESS**

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