



**Office of the Chairman
& Vice Chairman
Tohono O'odham Nation
Ned Norris, Jr., Chairman
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MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement from Chairman Ned Norris Jr. Regarding Recent Threats of Violence in Magdalena, Mexico

Sells, AZ --- For hundreds of years Tohono O'odham Nation members have taken part in the annual pilgrimage to the Church of St. Francis in Magdalena, Mexico. For many months this region has been experiencing heightened violence and conflict between competing drug cartels. In recent days, Nation officials learned of increased threats of violence in and around the Magdalena area. Tohono O'odham law enforcement has been working with other law enforcement agencies to further investigate these threats.

The Tohono O'odham Nation is acting to protect its members from any perceived harm. The Executive Office released a travel advisory to Nation members planning to make the pilgrimage to Magdalena. They are strongly discouraged from crossing over into Mexico at this time. The Nation has also made transportation available to those members already in the Magdalena area who would like to return to the United States. Many members are choosing to return to their homes.

While there is evidence of violent activity and threats, the Nation has received no confirmation that any of these threats or actions have been specifically against Tohono O'odham Nation members traveling to Magdalena.

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