



**Office of the Chairman  
& Vice Chairman  
Tohono O'odham Nation**  
Ned Norris, Jr., Chairman  
Isidro B. Lopez, Vice Chairman

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Peter Delgado, (520) 383-2028  
Matt Smith, (520) 321-1111

### **STATEMENT FROM CHAIRMAN NED NORRIS JR. ON DEATH OF TOHONO O'ODHAM ELDER AND EDUCATOR DANNY LOPEZ**

Sells, AZ --- The Tohono O'odham are suffering the loss of a devoted member and dedicated educator with the passing of Danny Lopez on the morning of October 21, 2008. Lopez, known for his commitment to teaching the history and language of the O'odham, was seventy-one years old.

Lopez's imprint on the Tohono O'odham Nation is vast and enduring. With a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in education, Lopez became a top educator, working at Indian Oasis Primary School in Sells and Topawa Middle School in Topawa. He also taught courses in Tohono O'odham language and culture at the Tohono O'odham Community College. His goal was to reach as many people as possible and pass on his knowledge so that future generations of O'odham will understand their heritage. He achieved that goal and by his efforts was able to teach the Himdag to hundreds of members over the past thirty years.

Lopez's achievements were recognized in 2005 when he was named the recipient of the Spirit of the Heard award, given by the Heard Museum to southwestern tribal members who demonstrate personal excellence and community leadership.

Celebrated as a storyteller, a singer, a poet, and a teacher, Lopez will be sorely missed and the entire Tohono O'odham Nation will mourn his passing. He lived his life in exemplary fashion and the Tohono O'odham will feel his positive influence for years to come.

Additional information on the Tohono O'odham Nation, including the history and culture that Danny Lopez worked so hard to preserve, can be found at <http://www.tonation-nsn.gov/>.

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