



Tohono O'odham Nation
Office of the
Chairman and Vice Chairwoman

Ned Norris Jr. Wavalene M. Saunders
Chairman Vice Chairwoman



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATEMENT FROM TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION CHAIRMAN NED NORRIS, JR. AND VICE CHAIRWOMAN WAVALENE SAUNDERS

SELLS, Ariz. – On behalf of the Tohono O'odham Nation, we condemn the violent and disgraceful events that unfolded yesterday at the U.S. Capitol. While peaceful protest is the right of every American, yesterday's actions were nothing of the sort. Rioters violently and deliberately disrupted the constitutional process of certifying the Electoral College vote, part of the peaceful transfer of power that is the very foundation of our democracy.

This assault was stoked by a President who has demonstrated his utter contempt for his responsibilities as an elected leader. His incitement of yesterday's riots serves as a final stain on his legacy of failed leadership. It was a shameful moment, and insults to our shared values as Americans. We cannot allow a single individual – or a mob – to simply discard the will of more than 81 million voters who made their voices heard last November.

As a country, we need to step back from the precipice that divisive and hateful rhetoric has brought us to, and remember who we are. We are one country made up of diverse people, with many different perspectives. While we often disagree with each other, we resolve our political disagreements peacefully and within the framework of the democracy that so many have fought and died to protect. That is who we are, and that is who we must be in this difficult moment.

The Native American community has a unique history and understanding of the importance of our democratic values, and why it is so important that we all come together as Americans. Former Congressman Joe Baca touched on this history when he said: *"Native Americans are the original inhabitants of the land that now constitutes the United States. They have helped develop the fundamental principles of freedom of speech and separation of powers that form the foundation of the United States Government."*

We ask that our fellow O'odham and all Americans join us in recommitting to working together to resolve our differences peacefully as we confront the real issues that impact our communities.

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