

**ROUND VALLEY INDIAN TRIBES**  
*A Sovereign Nation of Confederated Tribes*

TRIBAL COUNCIL OFFICE  
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COVELO, CALIFORNIA 95428  
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LOCATION: ON STATE HWY 162  
ONE MILE NORTH OF COVELO  
IN ROUND VALLEY  
TRIBAL TERRITORY SINCE TIME BEGAN

**ROUND VALLEY RESERVATION ESTABLISHED 1856**

April 24, 2013

S. James Anaya  
UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples  
[indigenous@ohchr.org](mailto:indigenous@ohchr.org)

**Re: Support for Huy's Letter of Allegation Regarding Increasing State  
Restrictions on American Indigenous Prisoners' Religious Freedoms**

Dear Special Rapporteur Anaya:

On April 19, 2013, the non-governmental organization Huy submitted a Letter of Allegation to your office requesting an investigation into the pervasive pattern in the United States of increasing state and local restrictions on the religious freedoms of American indigenous prisoners. We write to join Huy in voicing our concerns regarding American indigenous prisoners' rights to the free exercise of religion under conditions of equality and to request your intervention.

State corrections agencies and officers in the United States have undertaken a series of measures in recent years that severely restrict the ability of indigenous prisoners to possess religious items, participate in religious ceremonies, and otherwise engage in traditional practices. These measures have proceeded without meaningful consultation with tribal governments.

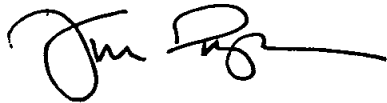
We are extremely concerned about the effects of such restrictions on American indigenous prisoners, who depend on traditional religious practices for their rehabilitation and survival. Given the regrettably large and growing population of indigenous peoples incarcerated in the United States, the increasing inability of prisoners to maintain a connection with traditional indigenous religion and culture only makes matters worse – it is having a severe impact not only on prisoners themselves, but potentially also the broader communities to which they return – most notably our tribal and reservation communities.

We respectfully request that you investigate the situation of increasing state restrictions on American indigenous prisoners' religious freedoms. We urge you to remind the United States that the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights articulate obligations to protect indigenous prisoners' human rights

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We ask that you encourage the United States and its state and local governments to respect American indigenous prisoners' rights to religious freedom, to remedy current and impending human and civil rights violations, and to engage in meaningful consultation with tribal governments regarding prison administrative measures that affect our imprisoned citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Dukepoo". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Alvin "Joe" Dukepoo, Vice-President  
Round Valley Tribal Council