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# 1855 TREATY AUTHORITY

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## CHIPPEWA DEER HUNTERS CHARGED BY DNR FOR OFF-RESERVATION HARVEST NEAR BEMIDJI FIRST COURT APPEARANCE MARCH 4

**Deer River, MN** – On Friday, the 1855 Treaty Authority will be defending 2 Chippewa tribal members charged with state game violations of taking a deer off-reservation, without a state license. The initial hearings are scheduled for 8:30 AM in Beltrami District Court, Bemidji, Minnesota.

“The 2 hunters were not part of any protest, they were hunting for food. This is exactly the problem” said Frank Bibeau, Executive Director of the 1855 Treaty Authority, “tribal members are intimidated by Minnesota DNR, but in reality it is unlawful for Minnesota to use its police powers against people gathering food with federally recognized and treaty protected rights.”

The 1855 Treaty Authority has been operating for about 6 years and has its own off-reservation ceded territory harvest code. However, the State of Minnesota continues to operate as though it has sole legal authority, which is expressly pre-empted by Congress in Public Law 280 in 1953.

In May of 2010, the 1855 Treaty Authority held a well-attended Fish Off-Reservation rally on Lake Bemidji, the day before state fishing opener. While Minnesota DNR Conservation Officers seized nets, neither Beltrami County nor the Attorney General filed a Complaint in Beltrami District Court.

“We will continue to defend Chippewa tribal members in state court, using treaty rights and other federal laws as a defense to state jurisdiction, until we are able to permanently remedy the state conduct in federal court with injunctive relief and ultimately a declaratory judgment leading to co-management of natural resources with the state” said Bibeau.

The 1855 Treaty Authority plans to continue working with the Department of Justice and Bureau of Indian Affairs to seek federal intervention for protection of tribal members from unlawful application of state law.

For more information about 1855 Treaty Authority activities and upcoming meetings, please contact [frankbibeau@gmail.com](mailto:frankbibeau@gmail.com) or call Frank Bibeau at 218-760-1258.

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TREATY WITH THE CHIPPEWA, 1855.

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