



## Media Advisory

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Phillip Ellis | [pellis@earthjustice.org](mailto:pellis@earthjustice.org) | 202.745.5221

## Tribes to Appear Before International Human Rights Commission to Highlight Human Rights Violations Related to the Dakota Access Pipeline

*Tribal representatives of the Standing Rock, Cheyenne River and Yankton Sioux Tribes will testify at a hearing of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.*

*Status conference on Dakota Access Pipeline lawsuit will also be held Friday.*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – A group of tribal representatives will testify at a hearing by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights this Friday, December 9 at 10:15 a.m. The hearing will examine the impact of extractive industries and projects on the human rights of indigenous peoples, focusing on the Dakota Access Pipeline and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and the Yankton Sioux Tribe.

The human rights commission hearing, is public and will discuss how the planning and construction of extractive industries' infrastructure projects trigger duties and obligations of members of the Organization of American States, including the United States, to promote, protect and guarantee human rights.

Tribal representatives will be available for questions following the hearing. Media is able to attend the hearing. Details can be found here: [http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/media\\_center/coverage.asp](http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/media_center/coverage.asp)

We also expect the hearing to be broadcasted on the web: <http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/default.asp>

**What:** Hearing on the Human Rights Situation of Indigenous Persons in the Context of Projects and Extractive Industries in the United States

**Who:** Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Organization of the United States

**When:** December 9, 2016, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.

**Where:** *Padilha Vidal Room* (TL Level), GSB Building of the Organization of American States, 1889 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006

### Tribal Representatives Testifying:

Councilman Chad Harrison, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

Chairman Harold Frazier, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

Chairman Robert Wayne Flying Hawk, Ihanktonwan Nation (Yankton Sioux Tribe)

Faith Spotted Eagle, Yankton Sioux Tribe

**Tribes Petition the Commission**

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and the Yankton Sioux Tribe last week petitioned the commission to call on the United States to take precautionary steps to prevent irreparable harm to the tribes, their members, and others resulting from the ongoing and imminent construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline (“DAPL”), and from the harassment and violence being perpetrated against people gathered in prayer and protest in opposition to DAPL.

[The official press release from the tribes can be found here.](#)

**Status Conference on the Dakota Access Lawsuit**

In addition, a status conference in the lawsuit challenging the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ permitting decisions will also be held Friday morning. That hearing will discuss the next steps in the U.S. District Court litigation, especially in light of the Corps’ decision announced Sunday to refuse to grant an easement for the pipeline to go under the Missouri River near the Standing Rock Sioux reservation and to study alternate routes for the pipeline. While the status conference should result in some clarity about how the litigation will unfold, it is likely to be a routine hearing with no decisions announced.