

APACHE STRONGHOLD

POB 766 SAN CARLOS, AZ 85550



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --

Arizona Congressman Paul Gosar Orders Apache Stronghold Visitors Removed by Capitol Police, Threatens Grandmothers With Arrest

July 23, 2015 (Washington D.C.) – Yesterday afternoon, following the successful completion of Apache Stronghold (www.Apache-Stronghold.com) “Caravan to D.C.” and their “Save the Oak Flat Act Rally” on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol Building, some Apache Stronghold members – mostly grandmothers and young women – went to visit their Arizona representatives in Congress and talk with them about the Apaches national stand in defense of their sacred place known today as Oak Flat. Oak Flat was named earlier this year as one of the *11 Most Endangered Historic Places in the United States* by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Among those that the Apache Stronghold contingent visited was Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ, 4th Dist.). The purpose of their visit was to address a “Dear Colleague” letter that Rep. Paul Gosar recently sent out to fellow House members regarding the “Save Oak Flat Act” introduced by Rep. Raul Grijalva, with 17 bi-partisan co-sponsors. In his letter, Rep. Gosar insulted the Apaches and called them “liars.”

Mrs. Vonda Cassadore of Bylas, Arizona, requested that Rep. Gosar come out of his back office briefly so that Mrs. Cassadore could ask him some questions about his “Dear Colleague” letter. Rather than speak with Mrs. Cassadore and the other ladies and Apache Stronghold members with her, Rep. Gosar responded by hiding behind a locked door and calling the Capitol Police, threatening to have Mrs. Cassadore and her friends immediately arrested. Rep. Gosar had the police escort Mrs. Cassadore and her Apache Stronghold associates and friends entirely out of the Cannon Office Building. Mrs. Cassadore stated that, “we’ll remember this when Election Day comes around. Sacred land means more than money.”

“Rep. Gosar has a record of intolerance and saying vicious things against Native Americans, but his behavior has now become stranger than ever,” said Apache Stronghold spokesperson Wendsler Nosie, Sr. “There is no excuse for his mistreatment of the Apache grandmothers and young ladies who came to his office. Cowering behind a locked door, refusing to come out, and then calling a squad of policemen to sweep those gentle ladies away is just terrible. Rep. Gosar should apologize for that, as well as for his strange and insulting ‘Dear Colleague’ letter.”

CONTACT:

Wendsler Nosie, Sr., Spokesperson, Apache Stronghold apache.stronghold@gmail.com

“Grijalva’s Save Oak Flat Bill Boosted by Historic Preservation Listing” <http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2015/07/20/grijalvas-save-oak-flat-bill-boosted-historic-preservation-listing-161136>

H.R. 2811 (“Save Oak Flat Act”) <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/2811>
Earlier, Gosar had called American Indians “wards of the federal government” in a roundtable discussion about the controversial Arizona land deal. See “Congressman’s Native American remark causes outcry,” Associated Press (December 10, 2014) <http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/arizona/politics/2014/12/11/congressmans-native-american-remark-causes-outcry/20258071/>