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**TOHONO O'ODHAM LEGISLATIVE
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**How to be Prepared While We Defend our Land and Members' Rights
Legislative Council Letter to Members**

Ñ-Hahajuñ, Ñ-Nanaipiju,

We are living in a time when our O'odham hemajkam, our T-Jewedga and our himdag are under attack by the federal government. On behalf of the Tohono O'odham Nation and its members, the Legislative Council and Chairman Jose have been fighting to stop the wall in court, in Congress, and in meetings with the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection, and Border Patrol. But DHS still says the wall is coming, and we need to be prepared.

So far, the federal courts **have not issued** an order to stop the wall, but the Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. will rule on emergency order to stop DHS soon. Council representatives appeared in the courtroom to support our case in July, and we will again when the next hearing is scheduled.

DHS continues telling the court that they have the right to build the wall, roads, more surveillance cameras and towers, power lines, lights, staging areas, concrete batch plants, and more within 60' of the international boundary. We know that's not true and their destruction of our T-Duduag (mountains) and T-Jewedga (land) would go far beyond deeper into our Reservation.

DHS is still planning to start removing 2000 of our sacred haha:sañ (saguaro) and many melhog (ocotillo) in two weeks, and we know at least half of our haha:sañ would die even if they were transplanted. They say that when they are done, they will destroy the rest of the vegetation in the construction zone, move heavy equipment and wall materials onto our lands, and start building the wall on December 1.

Last week, Border Patrol agents said that the prayer camp at San Miguel Gate would be removed and our people there could be "manhandled." We are deeply concerned for our members' safety and want to report that the campers were able to move to an area farther from the international boundary. The Legislative Council recognizes all members' rights to worship, peacefully

assemble, and freedom of speech. We condemn the federal government's violation these basic rights.

We are fighting this destruction, we are committed to doing everything we can to mitigate safety risks to our people, and we are asking you to help.

- For emergency services, call 911.
- To report non-emergency border wall-related concerns, call the Tohono O'odham Police Department (TOPD's) non-emergency line at (520) 383-3275.
- Districts and communities can work with the Office of Emergency Management (24/7 main number: (520) 383-8860) to develop community preparedness plans, evacuation plans, identify vulnerable individuals, create phone trees for getting critical information out, and more. This is especially important for districts and communities along the border.
- Call the Executive Office at (520) 383-2028 during regular business hours or call your district chairperson for community-based concerns.

Community members can also create a basic family preparedness plan that identifies:

- Pre-planned transportation plans and evacuation routes to temporary evacuation points
- Family communications plan
- Emergency contacts
- Essential supplies (72-hour kit) for all family members
- Medication and prescriptions for all family members

We urge members to carry identification at all times. Tell someone else if you're travelling near the border, even if you're going home. If you do interact with Border Patrol or any border contractors, please remain calm, and avoid escalating the situation. Please continue to stay safe. If you have any issues, you may record the names, badge numbers, license plate numbers, and any other details and report that information to TOPD.

We will continue this fight, and we urge you to participate by planning, preparing with your family and community, staying united, and looking out for everyone's safety.

Members will be updated as more information becomes available. Continue praying for the Tohono O'odham Nation.