

Lakota Solidarity Project of the Strong Heart Warrior Society

Independent Lakota Nation

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Lakota Warrior Society Releases New Tool to Stop Reservation Elder Abuse “State of Emergency”

Pine Ridge, SD and Washington DC – To call attention and action to the “State of Emergency” of rampant abuse and neglect of grassroots Lakota elders, the Strong Heart Warrior Society has released the first in a set of informational tools to help government agency personnel and the general public understand the systemic patterns of abuse that allow corrupt officials in the Oglala Sioux Tribe government to maintain power and control over “outspoken” grassroots Lakota elders. The tool is released by Strong Heart as part of Three Days of Action to Stop Elder Abuse.

The graphical tool explains: *“The Elder Abuse Power & Control diagram is a helpful tool in understanding the systemic pattern of abusive and violent behaviors used by corrupt officials and families within the Oglala Sioux Tribe to establish and maintain control over grassroots Lakota elders. The entire system of abuse is multi-faceted with a complex web of threats, abuse and neglect happening at the same time to create an oppressive atmosphere of fear and anxiety. Together this system firmly establishes a pattern of intimidation and control in the Oglala Sioux Tribe’s relationship with grassroots Lakota elders and people leading to genocide.”*

The source of this abusive system are U.S. tax dollars given to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. These funds in the form of 638 Contracts and grants are stolen and fraudulently misused by corrupt Oglala Sioux Tribe officials to inflict abuse and misery onto grassroots Lakota elders – the living professors of Lakota language and cultural knowledge. The Oglala Sioux Tribe calls these Lakota language speaking elders “troublemakers” because they are outspoken about creating better living conditions for their people.

South Dakota Senators John Thune and Mike Rounds, along with Representative Kristi Noem, have so far refused their legal obligations to monitor U.S. tax dollars given to the OST under treaty trust obligation. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Justice also continue to ignore the criminal behavior. Lakota Cante Tenza warriors working on behalf of the elders have demanded investigations, but despite physical evidence and years of mounting abuses – the U.S. Government does nothing.

“We hope this powerful tool will bring about awareness and action to stop the inhuman abuse of grassroots Lakota elders,” said Ana Oian Amets, Coordinator of the Lakota Solidarity Project and

member of the Cante Tenza Strong Heart Warrior Society. “Without grassroots elders, the future for Lakota language and culture is bleak – we must act now to protect them.”

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The Independent Lakota Nation represents the free and independent grassroots Lakota Oyate (people) who continue more than 165 years of resistance to colonial settlement on Lakota territory – land that has never been ceded by our people. We claim our sovereign powers and jurisdiction within our traditional free of interference by the United States Government, state governments, or any other foreign entities. Wowakan He Glihuniyalo: Our Sacred Way of Life Comes Home!