

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Governor Jack Dalrymple
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

Colonel Michael Gerhart
Superintendent
North Dakota State Highway Patrol
600 E Blvd Ave, Dept 504
Bismarck, ND 58505

Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier
Morton County Sheriff's Department
205 1st Avenue NW
Mandan, ND 58554

August 29, 2016

Dear Governor Dalrymple, Colonel Gerhart, and Sheriff Kirchmeier:

Amnesty International USA recently sent a delegation to Cannon Ball, North Dakota to observe the protests taking place against the Dakota Access Pipeline. I am writing today to urge you to remove the roadblock on Highway 1806 hindering access to gatherings of Indigenous communities and others protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline near Cannon Ball and the Standing Rock reservation.

While reports indicate that the roadblock was initiated for safety and security reasons related to the protests taking place on the side of the highway, we are concerned that its continued use deliberately hinders access to the protest sites and camp near Cannon Ball. We noted the recent placement of “no parking” and reduced speed limit signs in the area just north of the protest that were set up to control the flow of traffic near the construction access gates to achieve safety and security in this precise location. Any security measures imposed regarding protests, such as the

use of road blocks, must only be used if they are necessary and proportionate to a legitimate aim.

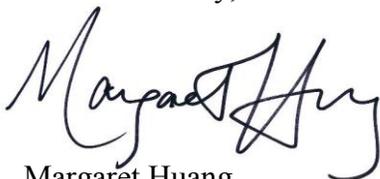
Amnesty International USA also urges each of your offices to meet regularly with the Standing Rock Tribal Council as well as the Indigenous communities gathered at the protest camp in order to facilitate better communication between all of the groups involved and ensure that North Dakota authorities facilitate the right to peaceful protest, as required by international law.

The U.S. government is obligated under international law to respect, protect, and fulfill the human rights of Indigenous people, including the rights to freedom of expression and assembly. It is the legitimate right of people to peacefully express their opinion. Public assemblies should not be considered as the “enemy”. The command hierarchy must convey a clear message to law enforcement officials that their task is to facilitate and not to restrict a peaceful public assembly.

I am attaching to this letter Amnesty International’s Good Practice for Law Enforcement Officials Policing Demonstrations which were previously sent to the Morton County Sheriff and the North Dakota State Highway Patrol on August 24, 2016.

We look forward to your reply and would be happy to provide additional information as needed.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret Huang". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Margaret" being more prominent than the last name "Huang".

Margaret Huang
Interim Executive Director
Amnesty International USA