

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



15 November 2016

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

RE: POLICING OF DEMONSTRATIONS

Dear Sheriff Kirchmeier,

Further to a letter sent earlier today, I am writing to remind you that Amnesty International USA sent a delegation of observers to North Dakota to monitor the handling of the protests at the construction site of the Dakota Access Pipeline.

We have been informed by our team on the ground that they are being prevented from reaching protests sites via public roads due to roadblocks set up by law enforcement. Our observers are wearing yellow shirts clearly identifying them as human rights observers and carry with them authorization letters from Amnesty International USA explaining their role in the observation of protests taking place in North Dakota. We urge you to ensure that North Dakota's law enforcement officials involved in the policing of these protests allow access to sites where protests are taking place for all legal and human rights observers and journalists in order to carry out their roles and responsibilities.

Reports on social media indicate that law enforcement officers are using pepper spray, rubber bullets and Tasers against protesters at protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline taking place in and around Mandan, ND today. While understanding a need to provide security for safety purposes, it is imperative that legal and human rights observers and journalists are granted access in order to document actions by both police and protesters. Providing access to legal and human rights observers and journalists is a necessary component of policing protests to ensure that police facilitate the right to protest and that the rights to peaceful assembly and association are protected as required under international law and standards.

Our delegation team can be contacted through the head of our delegation:

Zeke Johnson – T: 646-853-9779 E: zjohnson@aiusa.org

We would like to reiterate that North Dakota’s law enforcement officials involved in the policing of protests must take all measures needed to ensure that the treatment of demonstrators is in accordance with international human rights standards and the U.S. Constitution.

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" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Huang".

Margaret Huang
Executive Director
Amnesty International USA