

Dear Assistant Attorney General Gupta,

On behalf of United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. ("USET"), we submit the [attached](#) letter to follow up on a November 2, 2015 communication to Attorney General Lynch ([see below](#)). Unfortunately, we have not yet had a response to that letter. The letter requested the appointment of representatives from the Department of Justice ("Department") to a joint Tribal-Federal-State Task Force ("Task Force") to examine the unsolved and unprosecuted killing of Tribal members in the State of Maine.

In the state of Maine, which is home to four federally recognized Tribal nations, there is a disturbing pattern in which Natives fall victim to violent crime but no state criminal convictions are ever pursued or obtained. USET's November 2, 2015 letter highlights a particularly upsetting example of criminal justice failings in Maine. In 1965, Peter Francis, a World War II veteran and Tribal elder, was brutally murdered when he attempted to protect teenaged Passamaquoddy women from non-Natives who traveled to the Passamaquoddy Reservation at Pleasant Point seeking to solicit sex.

The November 2, 2015 letter requested that the U.S. Marshall for the District of Maine, Noel March, be appointed as a federal representative to the Task Force. After further consideration, USET respectfully requests that yourself, or another individual from the Department's Civil Rights Division, also be appointed to the Task Force. U.S. Marshall Noel has indicated a willingness to participate, but USET feels strongly that the Task Force should also include a member of the Department's Civil Rights Division.

In closing, the USET Sovereignty Protection Fund (SPF) will be hosting its annual Impact Week from **February 8-11, 2016** in Arlington, Virginia. USET's Executive Board respectfully requests a meeting at this time so that we can discuss how to best advance the Task Force and the protection of the civil rights of Native Americans in Maine.

Should you have questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me using the information below.

Sincerely,

Liz Malerba ~ Mohegan Tribe
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From: Liz Malerba

Sent: Monday, November 02, 2015 5:02 PM

To: 'loretta.lynn@usdoj.gov'

Cc: 'sabrina.curtis@usdoj.gov'; 'noel.march@usdoj.gov'; 'tracy.toulou2@usdoj.gov'; Kitcki Carroll; Wanda Janes; 'Robert Bryant'; 'lmalerba@moheganmail.com'; President Brian Patterson; Treasurer Kirk Francis; Vice President Randy Noka

Subject: USET Letter Supporting Appointment of Marshall Noel March to Joint Task Force on Native Killings

Dear Attorney General Lynch,

On behalf of United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. ("USET") we submit the [attached](#) letter to request that the United States Department of Justice ("Department") appoint U.S. Marshal Noel March as a representative to a joint Tribal-Federal-State Task Force that has been established for the purpose of examining the unsolved and unprosecuted killings of Tribal members in the State of Maine. USET is an inter-Tribal organization comprised of twenty-six federally recognized Tribal nations that passed resolution No. 2015:023 ([enclosed](#)) on February 12, 2015 to call for the creation of this task force.

USET has been active in its efforts to establish the Task Force, so that the group can examine the circumstances around the killing of Peter Francis and similar crimes that have caused untold pain and suffering in successive generations of Maine's Tribal communities. US Marshall Noel March has expressed an interest in being on the Task Force and could provide some valuable insight and expertise to the Task Force. USET, the Penobscot Nation, and Passamaquoddy Tribes of Maine strongly support these efforts and respectfully request that the Department appoint a representative to work with the Task Force.

Should you have questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me using the information below.

Sincerely,

Liz Malerba ~ Mohegan Tribe

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