



March 20, 2015

**Statement from Speaker LoRenzo Bates**

The Office of the Speaker has received numerous requests for comment in response to the court order issued late this afternoon by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, regarding the enforcement of the date of the presidential election.

However, the people of the Navajo Nation are currently faced with a matter much more significant and cumbersome — the loss of Officer Alex Yazzie.

Although the ongoing circumstances of the presidential election are important, I will refrain from commenting on the issue at this time out of respect for Officer Yazzie’s family and colleagues. I respectfully request all parties involved in the issue to remain respectful as our People honor the life and tremendous sacrifice of one of our Nation’s protectors.

I ask the Navajo People to join me in prayer for the families of Alex Yazzie, Herbert Frazier, and James Hale. May the Holy People bless your families in this difficult time.

Ahé’ée’

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LoRenzo Bates', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

LoRenzo Bates, Speaker  
23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council