



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
Office of the Speaker

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Council Delegate Charlaine Tso continues search for Ella Mae Begay

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PHOTO: Council Delegate Charlaine Tso advocates for all missing relatives during the Ella Mae Bike Run.

BLUFF, Utah — Yesterday, Council Delegate Charlaine Tso (Mexican Water, Tółikan, Teec Nos Pos, Aneth, Red Mesa) joined community members and over 50 motorcycle riders for a march to find Ella Mae Begay, who went missing this summer from the community of Tółikan, Arizona, and has yet to be located.

“Ella Mae is a grandmother, mother, sister, and aunty whose life matters. We will continue to fight for her family and those she loved,” said Delegate Charlaine Tso. “Our missing women need to be found and those who were victims of murder deserve justice under federal law. The Navajo people have felt the trauma of our own going missing. We will never stop searching for our sisters, our matriarchs.”

Last year, the 24th Navajo National Council launched a task force to support the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women’s movement to seek further justice for victims and their families.

“Our women are sacred and through their leadership, our families thrive. We will invest into the programs that will protect our young women, mothers, aunts and grandmas from violence. There is a real problem of our relatives going missing and it must end now,” said Speaker Seth Damon (Bááhaalí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tséyatoh).

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The Office of the Speaker has ongoing meetings with the Diné Sáanii for Justice organization, with forthcoming legislative action to address shortfalls in funding for law enforcement, criminal investigators, and support for women's shelters.

The annual "Break the Silence" march recognizing Domestic Violence Awareness Month is set for October 21, with a press conference hosted by Council Delegate Amber K. Crotty (Cove, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Red Valley, Tsé'ahnáoozt'í'í, Sheepsprings, Beclabito, Gad'ii'áhi/Tó Ko'i).

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