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Botschaft der Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika
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2022

Dear Ambassador,

I am writing to you because I am deeply concerned about the high rates of sexual violence against Indigenous women in the United States. Amnesty International's new report, "***The Never-Ending Maze: Continued failure to protect Indigenous women from sexual violence in the USA***", shows how the US government has continuously failed to protect Indigenous women from this epidemic of violence.

One in two Indigenous women (56.1%) have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime; they are more than twice as likely than white non-Indigenous women to be raped. Amnesty International found that there have been no significant changes to the rates of sexual violence against Indigenous women in the past 15 years, and legislation that has been implemented to protect these women has been minimally impactful.

Amnesty's new report confirms that high rates of sexual violence have been compounded by the US government's:

- Steady erosion of tribal government authority
- Chronic under-resourcing of law enforcement agencies and service providers meant to protect Indigenous women from sexual violence
- Sever under-funding of the Indigenous Health Service
- Lack of meaningful reform to the complex jurisdictional maze that Indigenous survivors of sexual violence face when seeking justice

Broad commitment and bold action are needed to curtail this epidemic of sexual violence, which the United States is obligated to do under binding international human rights laws and standards.

Among other things, I call on the United States to:

- Recognize the inherent concurrent jurisdiction of tribal authorities over all crimes committed on tribal land, regardless of the tribal citizenship of the accused;
- Ensure that reports of sexual violence are responded to promptly, that effective steps are taken to protect survivors from further violence and that impartial and thorough investigations are undertaken;

- Ensure that all Indigenous survivors of sexual violence have access to adequate, timely and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care, including sexual assault forensic examinations, without charge to the survivor and at a facility within a reasonable distance;
- Thoroughly and impartially prosecute cases of sexual violence against Indigenous women and should be sufficiently resourced to ensure that the cases are treated with urgency and processed without undue delay;
- Make available long-term, predictable and adequate funding for tribal law enforcement and justice services, for Indian Health Service (IHS) and tribes that administer their own health services and for culturally appropriate support services.

I sincerely hope that your government will take immediate and effective action to end the epidemic of sexual violence against indigenous women in your country that has gone on for far too long.

Yours sincerely