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Forgotten People is a 501(C)(3) registered in the State of Arizona and Navajo Nation. Our members advocate protecting their Sovereignty for Social, Environmental and Economic Justice.

Louise Yellowman Former Coconino County Supervisor Editorial Regarding Bodaway Gap Chapter Special Meeting held Wednesday October 3, 2012. Regarding the Escalade Project at the Sacred Site known as the Confluence

Tuesday October 16, 2012

I am writing this editorial because of the Navajo Times Article showing a picture of me being escorted out of the Chapter by two policewomen for voicing my concerns.

I decided to attend this special meeting because of my concern regarding the proposed Escalade Project in the Grand Canyon near the Confluence on Navajo Nation reservation lands.

In terms of the events leading up to my removal from the Chapter...Here is an example of misconduct on behalf of Bodaway Gap Chapter leadership. They have been secretly holding meetings and consulting with Navajo Nation leaders on how to conduct a meeting to move the Escalade Project forward.

On Wednesday, October 3rd a special meeting was called, which was posted at the last minute and also held during the middle of the week, purposely disenfranchising people from participating in the discussion and decisions being made on their behalf.

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Billy Arizona, President of the Chapter called the meeting to order, told the people they were not allowed to record or take pictures. Then immediately called for the motions and vote to rescind all prior resolutions opposing the Escalade project and vote to accept a new resolution to support the Project. Violating Robert's Rule of Order by purposely not allowing a discussion by the people, before voting. I protested and was then escorted out.

When it came to the vote, I could see Chapter Secretary, Marie Williams counting votes so fast and counting them twice in some cases and pointing to anyone randomly; not ensuring that they were indeed Bodaway-Gap chapter members and/or registered voters.

I knew then, that I was right to stand up for the people, which is the responsibility and duty of the Chapter Officials and Elected Official. I believe that the people should be allowed to be heard and treated with respect and equality. It made me sad to see in action the injustices and violations of our civil and human rights.

What concerns me most is that our State Representative, Albert Hale is an Escalade partner and stands to profit over his people and their lands. When in fact he is suppose to be protecting us from the exploiters, and now he has become one of them...shoving this project down the throats of his own people with the support of our elected leaders.

The Dine people are being used again, this project will only serve non-natives to continue to prosper, at the expense of our Sacred Lands and Holy People. We were placed here, on this Sacred Land by our Creator as Sovereign People to be Stewards that Protect our Scared Sites. Let us not forget who we are and bring back the Beauty Ways.

It is Time to Protect our Lives and Lands...Let Us Stand Together.

**Louise Yellowman
Former Coconino County Supervisor**

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