



**RESOLUTION OF THE
WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE OF THE
FORT APACHE INDIAN RESERVATION**

(Seeking Leniency for Shawn Cooya)

- WHEREAS,** pursuant to Article IV, Section 1(a) and 1(s) of the Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, *inter alia*, the Tribal Council has the authority to represent the Tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** Shawn Cooya is a member of the White Mountain Apache Tribe born and raised in Cibecue, Arizona on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribe is aware of the tragic circumstances that led to the incarceration of Shawn Cooya in the Federal Bureau of Prisons, including an offense that occurred on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribe is aware that Shawn Cooya has been charged with the homicide of a Native American prisoner which occurred at the USP Allenwood facility in White Deer, Pennsylvania; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribe is aware that the United States Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania and the United States Department of Justice are in the process of deciding whether to seek the death penalty against Shawn Cooya in the event he is convicted by a jury for the homicide of another prisoner; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribe is aware that in the process of deciding whether to seek the death penalty against Shawn Cooya, the United States Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania and the Department of Justice are willing to consider any legitimate prosecutorial reason, any individual characteristics of Shawn Cooya and any circumstances of the alleged homicide that might make the imposition of the death penalty unjustified; and
- WHEREAS,** if Shawn Cooya were executed, Shawn's family and friends and all members of the White Mountain Apache Tribe would suffer devastating grief, harm and irreparable loss. His execution would inflict further tragedy and misery on tribal members; and
- WHEREAS,** Apache cultural tradition values healing, forgiveness, community and rebirth and execution by the government would offend these traditional notions of harmony and spiritual oneness.
- BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that as a sovereign nation, the Tribe asks the United States Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania and the United States Department of Justice to show mercy and compassion to Shawn Cooya, his family and friends, and all members of the White Mountain Apache community and not seek the death penalty against Shawn Cooya.

Resolution No. 10-2008-247

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice Chairwoman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on October 15, 2008, duly adopted by a vote of SIX for and ZERO against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to the authority vested in it by Article IV, Section 1 (a), (g), (t) and (u) of the Constitution of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe September 30, 1993, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 12, 1993, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).



Chairman of the Tribal Council



Secretary of the Tribal Council