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VIOLATION OF HUMANITY: One Hard Lesson in the History of Policy Making

By NAMCO Student Member, Asia Cain

The land of the free and the home of the brave, America, for many, is known as a nation of opportunity. Much like everything else, there is a fine price to pay, which some possibly be bigger than others. On May 28, 1830, President Andrew Jackson authorized the Indian Removal Act. This prompted up to five Native American tribes to abandon the land they inhabited, preserved and harvested, and

migrate farther westward, so that the land they once occupied for so long can be colonized. Also known as the Trail of Tears, the effect of this voyage left many families in such an unfortunate condition. Approximately 4,000 Native Americans died through this journey as a result of harsh temperatures, hunger and the wide spread of untreated diseases for the sake of the new nation that is trying to be established. However, with such a massive loss

came a magnitude of gain and eventually, through this event granted these Native Americans laws, rights and liberties. As of today, the San Carlos Apache tribe is now working against Congress to maintain their homeland. This particular tribe inhabits southeastern Arizona. Their reservation was recognized under President Ulysses S. Grant on December

14, 1872. For roughly 200 years, this land was their land and no one had the right to take it away. Though on February 14, 2013, Representative Paul A. Gosar felt differently and his proposal was introduced to the floor. Also known as H. R. 687, the bill will grant 2,400 acres of sacred ground to a copper mining company. Two years later and this bill have finally been voted on in the House of Representatives and the Senate. Not only would the company destroy a very unique and

beautiful part of Arizona but it will privatize public land for a foreign corporation and will deplete years of tradition and ways of survival for the San Carlos people. This will include land used for ceremonial purposes for the young girls entering to womanhood, acorn grounds and medical plants used for medicine and remedies. Currently, the land is now sectioned off and the San Carlos people cannot enter into their own space. More than that, this an unfortunate

circumstance but it is an outrage and a violation of humanity. As a minority supporting magazine, we understand what is like to have something so special and it being stolen with legal documentation supporting its purposes. Furthermore, the San Carlos Apache tribe Chairman Terry Rambler and members are deriving up ways to put a halt to this bill but also the community of the internet and conservationists as well.



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