

WIXÁRIKA RESEARCH CENTER

September 10, 2018

Adriaan Bronkhorst
The Drug Peace Institute
Utrecht, Holland

Dear Mr. Bronkhorst:

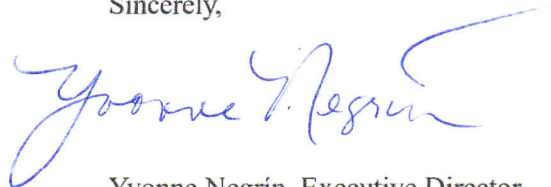
This letter is to express my support for the Centro Indígena Huichol, A.C. and Susana Valadez for the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize. My husband, Juan Negrín, and I met Susana in 1974, when she was still a student at UCLA and attended an exhibit of Wixárika art that we had arranged in Los Angeles.

Over the years I have witnessed her steadfast dedication to the Wixárika people, their art, and general wellbeing. Her work on the preservation of embroidery patterns and other iconography has formed a very important archive that will stand the test of time. Through the Centro Indígena Huichol, A.C., she has employed many Wixárika artisans who have been able to create their beautiful beadwork without worrying about where or how they would sell their product. Susana took it upon herself to develop a market and secure fair and good prices for their work and it provided an alternative to working in the tobacco fields where they were exposed to dangerous pesticides.

At the Centro Indígena Huichol in Huejuquilla she has developed permaculture and bee keeping projects where Wixárika people can stay and learn these skills and take that knowledge back to the sierras with them. The school she runs out of the CIH is a place where cultural pride is reinforced in the children and adults who stay there. CIH is open to all Wixárika people and during their stay they are offered good organic balanced meals and a safe place to sleep. The school is open to all children and they are cared for with love and respect and attend classes where they are taught basic skills. When needed, medical attention is provided including the necessary medications. Susana's work and defense of Wixárika culture has been and will continue to be an important focus of hers.

Both Susan and I have collected a large body of textiles and other artwork and we hope to join hands and create a digital exhibit sometime in the future in order to share our collections with others. We each have our work cut out for us on a daily basis but we are now looking forward to making time to finally do a project together after our lifelong work with the Wixárika people. My email address is: y.negrin@wixarika.org and our web address is www.wixarika.org

Sincerely,



Yvonne Negrín, Executive Director
Wixárika Research Center