



# Kiowa Tribe

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**Executive Branch**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **KIOWA TRIBAL CHAIRMAN FILES AGAINST LEGISLATURE REGARDING HIS IMPEACHMENT**

CARNEGIE, Okla. – Briefings were filed today in the Court of Indian Offenses Plaintiff’s request in support of a preliminary injunction. This comes as a result from the Kiowa Tribal Chairman’s request for a Temporary Restraining Order to keep the Legislature from proceeding with an impeachment against Chairman Matthew Komalty.

The Chairman cites abuses of constitutional provisions regarding appropriate and fairness to conduct the hearing.

- The Legislative branch held a special meeting on June 22, 2020, and voted to proceed with the impeachment process.
- Impeachment charges were developed and issued by the Legislative branch to the Chairman on June 23, 2020
- The impeachment hearing scheduled on July 23, 2020 and the notification did not include any guidance on how the hearing would be conducted.
- A continuance was made by the Legislative Branch to change the date to July 30, 2020.
- On July 29, 2020, an impeachment hearing agenda was provided with minimal details.

Based on the factors listed above it shows that the Legislative Branch did not develop any procedures or issue guidance on the impeachment process which was entrusted to them through the Kiowa Constitution.

Most importantly, the Chairman’s argument is the complete lack of any due process. “The constitution has given the Legislature great power over these types of proceedings. The Legislature essentially sits as judge, jury, and executioner, “the Chairman said.

“A fair and just process is what the people want,” Komalty said. “As leaders of the tribe, we must conduct ourselves with the utmost integrity. Failure to do that will result in the Kiowa people’s loss of faith in its leadership.”

It is encouraged that all tribal members view the video of the impeachment hearing on July 30, 2020. It will confirm that due process was not served.

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The judge will rule on the temporary restraining order via zoom on Wednesday, August 5, 2020, at 10 a.m.