



CHEROKEE NATION

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March 11, 1994

Mr. Greg Combs
District Attorney
213 West Delaware
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Dear Greg:

I have just now read a series of articles about the murder of Donald Beartrack last Friday. In the March 6, 1994 Muskogee Phoenix and Times-Democrat you indicated the motive appeared to be "intoxication and meanness." This is much more than meanness. Murder is an evil act. Several people have indicated there is reason to believe this murder was racially motivated and constituted a hate crime. I too am very concerned about this possibility.

Like many others I was shocked and extremely upset to learn that Donald Beartrack apparently knew he was in grave danger and in desperation wrote the tag number of the car on his arm, not once but twice. I can't even imagine the terror he must have felt when he wrote the tag number on his arm in an attempt to make sure that if anything happened to him, his murderers would be caught and justice would be done.

I am requesting the following be done:

1. The murder of Donald Beartrack be investigated as a racially motivated hate crime.
2. The charge of kidnapping be added to the other charges against Brett Adams, Joe Dale Cox and Russell Murray.
3. That the autopsy report be examined very carefully to see whether Donald Beartrack was tortured or beaten before he was shot. Something had to have happened to cause him to be so concerned about his safety that he wrote the tag number of the car on his arm.