



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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*Office of the United States Attorney  
District of Arizona*

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## **FORMER INDIAN HOUSING DIRECTOR SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR THEFT FROM TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION AND FAILURE TO FILE FEDERAL TAX RETURNS**

TUCSON, Ariz. – Loren A. Goldtooth, Sr., 52, of Tuba City, Ariz. and the former Executive Director of the Ki:Ki Association (the tribally designated housing entity of the Tohono O'Odham Nation), was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge David C. Bury to 12 months in prison. Goldtooth was found guilty by a federal jury on May 2, 2008, of two counts of Embezzlement/Theft from an Indian Tribal Organization, three counts of failure to File Individual Federal Income Tax Returns, and two counts of Failure to File Corporate Federal Tax Returns.

Goldtooth was also ordered by the Court to make restitution to the Tohono O'Odham Ki:Ki Association in the amount of \$52,239 and was ordered to cooperate with the Internal Revenue Service in resolving his outstanding tax obligations. Goldtooth must turn himself in to federal authorities by October 31, 2008.

Between February 2000 and August 2002, Goldtooth, a certified public accountant (CPA), served as Executive Director of the Ki:Ki Association. During that time, he received \$34,831 in overtime payments to which he was not entitled. Goldtooth also used his Ki:Ki Association credit cards for unauthorized personal expenses, totaling \$17,861. These unauthorized personal expenses included charges related to 15 trips to Las Vegas and Reno, rock band concert tickets and tickets to a professional baseball game.

“Senior tribal officials who are in position of trust in their communities should keep the well-being of their constituents ahead of their own,” stated U.S. Attorney Diane J. Humetewa. “Those who use public funds for their own personal gain will be held accountable.”

“This sentencing is important because this ‘white-collar crime’ directly affected the lives of every family on the Tohono O'Odham Nation,” stated Inspector General Kenneth Donohue, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Inspector General (OIG). “Considering the terrible effects of these crimes on individuals and families, HUD OIG vigorously pursues the investigation of Indian Housing fraud in the knowledge that these crimes victimize those most vulnerable.”

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Inspector General; and the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division. The prosecution was handled by Beverly K. Anderson, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-0246-DCB-CRP  
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