



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, September 25, 2008

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SELLS MAN SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IN PRISON FOR SECOND DEGREE MURDER

TUCSON, Ariz. – Rene Hernandez, 41, of Sells, Ariz., was sentenced yesterday by U.S. District Chief Judge John M. Roll to 20 years in federal prison after Hernandez pleaded guilty on March 4, 2008 to Second Degree Murder.

On December 7, 2006, on the Tohono O’odham Nation, Hernandez had been drinking beer and decided to go for a walk, filling his jacket pockets with beer cans. He took with him a .44 caliber handgun revolver and walked into the desert to shoot cans or bottles. Hernandez eventually made his way to the victim’s trailer home where the two talked for some time in the victim’s front yard.

While visiting with the victim, Hernandez offered him alcohol as they had often shared beer together, but the victim declined. Hernandez then picked up his pistol and began rotating the cylinder and shot the victim in the head, killing him. Later that evening, Hernandez was arrested by Pima County Sheriff’s deputies in Tucson for brandishing the same weapon.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Tohono O’odham Police Department. The prosecution was handled by David P. Flannigan, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

CASE NUMBER: CR-07-0035-TUC-JMR (GEE)
RELEASE NUMBER: 2008-253(Hernandez)

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