



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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District of Arizona*

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GANG MEMBER SENTENCED TO OVER 41 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON

TUCSON, Ariz. – James Paul Antonio, 27, of the Tohono O’odham Nation, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Cindy K. Jorgenson to 497 months in prison to be followed by five years of supervised release. Antonio was found guilty by a federal jury in two different trials - on February 14th, 2008, for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and on May 15th, 2008, for six charges: assault with a dangerous weapon, assault with serious bodily injury, possession of a machine gun during a crime of violence, possession of ammunition by a prohibited possessor, possession of an unregistered firearm, and unlawful possession of a machine gun.

On August 5th, 2006, Antonio was arrested for the shooting of another gang-member. He was charged with four counts and was tried in February 2008. He was acquitted of three counts and convicted of possession of a firearm by a felon.

Three months later, while on pretrial release for the first incident, Antonio fired a burst from his machine gun through the front window of a residence striking an adult female and narrowly missing two additional women and two children, including members of his own family. Antonio left the scene but was located four days later, at one of his girlfriend’s homes in Tucson, Ariz., where he was taken into custody. In his backpack beside the bed in which he was sleeping was the 9mm submachine gun along with 27 rounds of ammunition, almost two pounds of marijuana and a police scanner.

Antonio was tried by a federal jury for the machine gun/aggravated assault and convicted on May 15, 2008, of all six counts stemming from that incident. Antonio subsequently admitted to a supervised release violation from a third case, and he received an additional 11 month consecutive sentence. The judge also ordered that Antonio’s federal sentence be consecutive to the state prison sentence for a marijuana conviction he is currently serving.

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 Flannigan and Micah Schmit, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, District of Arizona, Tucson.

CASE NUMBERS: 07CR-00192; 06CR-2089; 00CR-01580
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