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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**October 12, 2001**

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# **TUCSON MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO EMBEZZLEMENT OF TRIBAL FUNDS AND FALSE TAX RETURN**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA** -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, announced today that WAYNE C. EVANS, age 52, of Tucson, Arizona, pled guilty to embezzlement of funds from the Tohono O'Odham Nation, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1163, in federal district court in Tucson, Arizona. Evans also pled guilty to having filed a false income tax return for the 1996 tax year, in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1).

EVANS pled guilty to having embezzled \$1.597 million dollars from the Tohono O'Odham Nation between 1994-1997. Evans was the general manager of the Farming Authority for the Tohono O'Odham Nation. Evans pled guilty to authorizing the payment of \$1.597 million to a corporation which he controlled, which allegedly made repairs to farms on the Tohono O'odham lands. Evans did not disclose his ownership and control of that corporation to the authorities at the Tohono O'Odham Nation. Evans also failed to report income he received in connection with those transactions on his 1996 tax return.

A conviction for the embezzlement charge carries a maximum penalty of 5 years, a \$250,000 fine or both. A conviction for the tax charge carries a maximum penalty of 3 years, a \$250,000 fine, or both.

(MORE)

Sentencing is set before Judge Frank R. Zapata on January 2, 2002.

The investigation in this case was conducted by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service.

The prosecution is being handled by Tom Fink, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-99-1267-TUC-FRZ

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