



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

**March 30, 2012**

**FORMER CORRECTIONS OFFICER AT SHIPROCK, N.M., DETENTION CENTER CHARGED FOR SEXUALLY ABUSING A FEMALE INMATE**

ALBUQUERQUE – A federal grand jury in Albuquerque has indicted **Sylvester Bruce**, 44, a former corrections officer with Navajo Nation’s Shiprock Detention Center in Shiprock, N.M., on charges related to the sexual abuse of an inmate during the summer and fall of 2010. The indictment was returned on March 28, 2012, and was publicly posted earlier today.

Bruce is charged with one count of violating the civil rights of the victim by engaging in sexual contact with the victim and depriving her of her right to bodily integrity. The defendant is also charged with abusive sexual contact of the victim without her consent. Defendant Bruce is also charged with two counts of making false statements to the FBI, for denying that he had sexual contact with the inmate and for further denying that he took pictures of inmates inside the cells of the Shiprock Detention Center.

Sylvester Bruce faces a maximum penalty of two years in prison for abusive sexual contact, one year in prison for the civil rights violation and 10 years in prison for the charges related to false statements.

An indictment is merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

This case is being investigated by the Farmington, N.M., Resident Agency of the Albuquerque Division of the FBI and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Baker for the District of New Mexico and Fara Gold of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

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