



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

**MESCALERO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL SEXUAL ABUSE CHARGE**

LAS CRUCES – Yesterday afternoon, **Terrence Charles Blake**, 28, an enrolled member of the Mescalero Apache Nation, pled guilty to an indictment charging him with aggravated sexual abuse in federal court in Las Cruces, N.M.

Blake entered his guilty plea under a plea agreement with the U.S. Attorney's Office. Under the terms of the plea agreement, Blake faces a sentence of 70 to 87 months of imprisonment to be followed by five years of supervised release. Blake also will be required to register as a sex offender. Blake, who was arrested on August 10, 2011, remains in custody pending his sentencing hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Blake was charged with raping a Mescalero Apache woman on May 13, 2011, in a remote field located within the Mescalero Apache Reservation. According to the criminal complaint, on that date, Blake drove the victim to a secluded field behind the Pena Housing Area on the Mescalero Apache Reservation and sexually assaulted her.

During his plea hearing, Blake admitted meeting the victim earlier that day at the Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort and Casino in Ruidoso, N.M. Blake further admitted leaving the resort with the victim, and later driving her to the remote field, where he engaged in vaginal intercourse with her against her will.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services, Mescalero Agency, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jessica Cárdenas Jarvis.

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