



PRESS RELEASE

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SANDIA PUEBLO WOMAN SENTENCED TO 72 MONTHS IN PRISON
FOR FEDERAL ARMED BANK ROBBERY CONVICTION

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning, a federal judge sentenced Hazel Bernadette Gutierrez, 55, to a 72-month term of imprisonment for her armed bank robbery conviction. Gutierrez, a member and resident of Sandia Pueblo, will be on supervised release for three years after she completes her prison sentence. Gutierrez also was ordered to pay full restitution to the bank that was the victim of her crime.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Gutierrez was sentenced for robbing the Bank of America (Bank) located at 7644 Jefferson Street, in Albuquerque on November 21, 2009. According to court filings, the Bank was robbed by a woman who entered the Bank and presented a demand note to the teller. The woman then pulled a handgun from her purse and displayed it to the teller. The teller provided the woman with a large sum of money and the individual was last seen fleeing the Bank on foot. Photographs from surveillance of the robbery was provided to the media and tips poured in to the FBI, identifying Gutierrez as the woman who had robbed the bank.

Gutierrez entered a guilty plea to a one-count indictment charging her with armed bank robbery on May 17, 2011. In her plea agreement, Gutierrez admitted that she walked into the Bank; presented the teller with a note; told the teller that she was robbing her; and pointed a gun at the teller.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Albuquerque Police Department and the Sandia Pueblo Tribal Police Department, and was being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jennifer M. Rozzoni and Jacob A. Wishard.

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