



PRESS RELEASE

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**MESCALERO MAN SENTENCED TO SEVEN YEARS IN
PRISON FOR BRANDISHING A FIREARM**

LAS CRUCES – Yesterday in federal court, Clifford Little Feather Poncho, 19, a member and resident of the Mescalero Apache Nation, was sentenced to seven years in prison for brandishing a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence. Poncho, who has been in federal custody since his arrest on Nov. 17, 2011, will be on supervised release for three years after he completes his prison sentence.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Poncho was sentenced based on his conviction for brandishing a firearm during the carjacking of a pizza deliveryman on July 14, 2011, on the Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation.

Court records reflect that, on the night of July 14, 2011, a pizza deliveryman was lured to a hunting lodge on the reservation by a caller who ordered \$96 worth of pizza. When the deliveryman arrived at the hunting lodge, he was approached by Poncho and an associate. When the deliveryman looked at the receipt to verify the cost of the pizza, Poncho hit him in the face with a firearm. Poncho and his associate then stole the deliveryman's car and drove away.

Poncho and his associate were charged in a criminal complaint that was filed on Nov. 15, 2011. Poncho pled guilty to an information charging him with brandishing a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence on March 20, 2012. In his plea agreement, Poncho admitted that he and his associate used a firearm to rob a pizza deliveryman on July 14, 2011. He further acknowledged that he threatened the deliveryman with the firearm and then used the firearm to pistol-whip him.

The criminal complaint against the associate was dismissed in Jan. 2012, after he passed away.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services, Mescalero Agency. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Aaron O. Jordan.

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