



PRESS RELEASE

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MESCALERO MAN SENTENCED TO 51 MONTHS
FOR FEDERAL ASSAULT CONVICTION

LAS CRUCES – On August 2, 2012, a federal judge in Las Cruces, N.M., sentenced Gene Collins Ahidley, 29, a member and resident of the Mescalero Apache Nation, to a 51-month term of imprisonment for his federal assault conviction. Ahidley will serve a two-year term of supervised release after he completes his prison sentence.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that, on May 17, 2011, Ahidley pled guilty to a two-count indictment charging him with assault resulting in serious bodily injury and assault with a deadly weapon.

Court records reflect that Ahidley assaulted the victim, his girlfriend and mother of his children, on the Mescalero Apache Reservation on Aug. 24, 2006. On that date, Ahidley drove the victim to a remote location behind the Pena Housing Area and assaulted her by repeatedly punching her in the face and striking her with a three-inch thick tree branch in the legs, face and back of her head. When the attack began, the victim was holding the couple's two-year-old child. The victim suffered injuries to her head, neck, torso and legs as a result of the assault.

The case was investigated by the FBI and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services, Mescalero Agency, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jacob A. Wishard and Mick Gutierrez.

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