



PRESS RELEASE

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SHIPROCK, N.M., MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON
FOR FEDERAL ASSAULT CONVICTION

ALBUQUERQUE – Yesterday in Albuquerque federal court, Wayne Tahe, 58, a member of the Navajo Nation who resides in Shiprock, N.M., was sentenced to 37 months in prison for his assault conviction. Tahe will be on supervised release for two years after he completes his prison sentence. He also was ordered to pay \$3,787.60 in restitution to cover the victim's medical costs.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Tahe was arrested on assault charges on Dec. 8, 2011, after he stabbed his wife in their Shiprock home in the Navajo Indian Reservation on Dec. 4, 2011. Tahe has been in federal custody since that time.

On April 5, 2012, Tahe pled guilty to an indictment charging him with assault resulting in serious bodily injury. In his plea agreement, Tahe admitted stabbing his wife with a kitchen knife on Dec. 4, 2011.

Court filings reflect that Tahe stabbed his wife in the chest and also cut her right arm during an argument. The victim suffered a stab wound to her chest between her lungs and stomach. The victim also suffered a slash wound to her upper right arm, a stab wound to her lower right arm, and a cut on her right arm. She also had multiple bruises on her back, chest and lower extremities. According to a medical provider, the victim was at a substantial risk of death because she lost a great deal of blood as a result of the attack.

The case was investigated by the FBI and the Shiprock Division of the Navajo Nation Department of Public Safety, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kyle T. Nayback.

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