United States Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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ALAMO, N.M., MAN SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS FOR VOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER OF 10-MONTH INFANT

ALBUQUERQUE – Yesterday, a federal judge sentenced Kalvest Ganadonegro, 31, a member of the Navajo Nation from Alamo, N.M., to a 120-month term of imprisonment for his voluntary manslaughter conviction. Ganadonegro will be on supervised release for three years after he completes his prison sentence.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Ganadonegro's conviction arose out of the death of a 10-month infant who had been left in his care on Nov. 21, 2008. Ganadonegro was convicted of voluntary manslaughter on March 5, 2012, after a seven-day trial.

Ganadonegro initially was charged with assault resulting in death in a criminal complaint filed on Nov. 24, 2008, alleging that he killed a ten-month infant by shaking her violently on Nov. 21, 2008. Subsequently, on Feb. 10, 2009, Ganadonegro was indicted and charged with first degree murder. The case went to trial in Sept. 2011, and resulted in a mistrial after the jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict.

On Nov. 9, 2011, Ganadonegro was indicted in a three-count superseding indictment charging him with: (1) second degree murder; (2) voluntary manslaughter; and (3) negligent child abuse resulting in death. Trial on the superseding indictment began on Feb. 27, 2012, and ended on March 5, 2012, when the jury convicted Ganadonegro of Count 2 and acquitted him of Counts 1 and 3.

The evidence at the second trial established that on Nov. 21, 2008, in a residence located in Alamo, which is on the Navajo Indian Reservation, Ganadonegro shook and killed a tenmonth infant whom he was babysitting because she would not stop crying. Ganadonegro picked up the infant, shook her, and forcefully put her down on the couch. Ganadonegro shook the infant on at least two occasions. The shaking caused a diffuse subdural hematoma, cerebral edema and diffuse retinal hemorrhages that eventually lead to the infant's brain death.

The case was investigated by the FBI and the Navajo Nation Department of Public Safety, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jennifer M. Rozzoni and Jeremy Pena.

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