



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, October 19, 2009

Public Affairs
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WHITERIVER MAN FOUND GUILTY OF STABBING

PHOENIX - Nathan Brooks Manuelito, 29, of Whiteriver, Ariz., was found guilty of Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury by a federal jury in Prescott, Ariz. The case was tried before U.S. District Judge Paul G. Rosenblatt between October 14 and 16, 2009. Manuelito remained in custody after the verdict. Sentencing is set before Judge Rosenblatt on January 11, 2010.

The evidence at trial showed that on April 22, 2009, both the defendant and the victim, as well as two other individuals, were standing around talking in the front yard at a friend's house. According to the victim and two of the witnesses, Manuelito pulled out a knife and stabbed the victim three times in the right side, right abdomen and right back. The stabbing was completely unprovoked, and resulted in the victim having to be air evacuated for emergency treatment and surgery. The victim's life threatening injuries included a liver laceration and a collapsed lung. He also had a right rib fracture.

A conviction for Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both. In determining an actual sentence, Judge Rosenblatt will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

The investigation leading to the guilty verdict was conducted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the White Mountain Apache Tribal Police Department. The prosecution was handled by Dimitra Sampson and Keith Vercauteren, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-09-8073-PCT-PGR
RELEASE NUMBER: 2009-323(Manuelito)

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