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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Two men indicted in assault cases on the Red Lake Indian Reservation

Two Red Lake men were indicted yesterday in federal court in unrelated cases all involving assaults on the Red Lake Indian Reservation.

In the first case, Ronald Dean Oakgrove Sr., 42, was charged Dec. 13 with one count of maiming and one count of assault resulting in serious bodily injury. Oakgrove's indictment alleges that on Dec. 15, 2008, he did with intent to torture, main and disfigure, pour scalding water and food upon a victim. It also alleges that Oakgrove did assault the victim resulting in serious bodily injury.

According to a Federal Bureau of Investigation affidavit, on Dec. 15 Oakgrove grabbed a pot of boiling water, grease and beef, and dumped it over the victim's head. Oakgrove then left the residence saying, "I hope you die!"

The victim was treated for third-degree burn injuries to her head, shoulders, arms and back. Oakgrove was arrested Dec. 16 by the Red Lake Police Department.

If convicted, Oakgrove faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years on the maiming count and 10 years on the assault count. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the FBI and the Red Lake Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Clifford B. Wardlaw.

In the second case, Paul Robert Jones, 34, was charged with one count of assault with intent to murder, one count of assault with a dangerous weapon, one count of assault resulting in serious bodily injury and three counts of first-degree burglary.

The indictment alleges that on Nov. 26, 2008, Jones assaulted a victim with intent to commit murder with a knife and without just cause or excuse. It also alleges that Jones entered a dwelling without consent and with intent to commit a crime.

According to a FBI affidavit, at approximately 1:10 a.m. on Nov. 26, the Red Lake Police Department responded to an assault report at a residence. The victim told officers that she was lying down with her young child while another child was playing video games in the bedroom when she saw Jones's face in the window. Jones entered the bedroom and started stabbing her until the victim was able to crawl to another room for help.

The victim sustained several severe lacerations to her left arm and forearm, mouth, chest area and right fingers.

If convicted, Jones faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years on the assault with intent to murder count; 10 years on each of the other two assault counts; and 20 years on each of the burglary counts. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the FBI and the Red Lake Police Department and is also being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Wardlaw.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by a defendant. A defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.