

For Immediate Release
November 28, 2011

**HOGBACK MAN SENTENCED TO 121 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT
FOR FEDERAL SEXUAL ASSAULT CONVICTION**

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning in federal court, **AMOS JOE**, a 61-year-old enrolled member of the Navajo Nation who resides in Hogback, N.M., was sentenced to 121 months imprisonment for his federal sexual assault conviction. Joe will be on supervised release for five years after he completes his prison sentence. He also will be required to register as a sex offender.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Joe has been in federal custody since his arrest on November 4, 2010 on an aggravated sexual assault charge. Joe entered a guilty plea to this offense on May 24, 2011.

According to court records, on November 2, 2010, Joe sexually assaulted a 60-year-old Navajo woman (Victim) in his Hogback home, which is located within the boundaries of the Navajo Indian Reservation. During a November 4, 2010 interview with a law enforcement officer, the Victim reported that, while she was trying to hitch a ride to her home along U.S. Highway 64 in Hogback, she saw a person waving at her from a residence on the other side of the Highway. The Victim walked over to the residence because she thought she recognized the person, who later was identified as Joe. When the Victim got to Joe's residence and as she realized that she did not know him, Joe grabbed the Victim, pushed her into his residence, disrobed her, and forcefully inserted two of his fingers into her vagina. When the Victim resisted Joe's attack and yelled at him to stop, Joe became more aggressive. The Victim managed to escape further attack and ran across the Highway where a motorist stopped to assist her. After the Victim said she had been sexually attacked, the motorist took the Victim to the

Northern Navajo Medical Center in Shiprock where an examination revealed that the Victim had tears to her inner and outer vaginal areas.

In entering his plea, Joe admitted that, after seeing the Victim walking along Highway 64 near his home, he gestured for her to walk across the Highway to his home. Joe admitted that, when she got to his home, Joe grabbed her, pulled her into his home, pulled her to the ground, removed her pants and underwear, and inserted two of his fingers into the her vagina against her will. Joe acknowledged that he continued his attack even though the Victim fought him and yelled at him to stop. He admitted that the attack ceased only because the Victim managed to free herself and escape from his home.

The case was investigated by the Navajo Nation Department of Public Safety, Shiprock Division, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jack E. Burkhead.

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