



PRESS RELEASE

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WHITEHORSE, N.M., MAN SENTENCED TO 48 MONTHS IN PRISON
FOR FEDERAL ROBBERY AND ASSAULT CONVICTION

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning, a federal judge sentenced, Robert Billy Castillo, Jr., to a 48-month term of imprisonment to be followed by three years of supervised release for his robbery and assault conviction. Castillo, 25, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation from Whitehorse, N.M., also was ordered to pay \$200 in restitution to cover the costs of damaged equipment.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that, on May 30, 2012, Castillo pled guilty to a two-count indictment charging him with robbery and assault with a dangerous weapon without the benefit of a plea agreement. In entering his guilty plea, Castillo admitted to robbing the Giant Gas Station, in Crownpoint, N.M., which is located within the Navajo Indian Reservation, on Oct. 8, 2011. Castillo has been in federal custody since entering his guilty plea.

According to court filings, Castillo went into the gas station, armed himself with an empty vodka bottle, and demanded that the three store clerks give him money from the cash register. After a male clerk prevented Castillo from striking a female clerk with the bottle by impeding the blow, Castillo went behind the counter and attempted unsuccessfully to open the cash register. In the meantime, the three clerks locked themselves away in a room at the back of the gas station while Castillo damaged equipment in the gas station and continued to demand money. The clerks then called the police and contacted the owner of the gas station. After a brief physical struggle with the owner, Castillo fled from the gas station and was apprehended by the police shortly thereafter.

The case was investigated by the Crownpoint District of the Navajo Nation Department of Public Safety and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Niki Tapia-Brito.

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