



PRESS RELEASE

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**FEDERAL JURY CONVICTS RAMAH NAVAJO MAN
OF VOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER**

ALBUQUERQUE – Yesterday evening, a federal jury convicted Dhanzasikam R. Toledo, 21, an enrolled member of the Ramah Navajo Chapter of the Navajo Nation, of voluntary manslaughter after a three-day trial, announced U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales.

Toledo was arrested in Nov. 21, 2011, on a criminal complaint alleging that he murdered his uncle Arvin Toledo, 44, also a member of the Ramah Navajo Chapter, on Nov. 10, 2011, in Ramah, N.M., which is located on the Navajo Indian Reservation. Toledo was indicted on a second degree murder charge on Dec. 13, 2011.

The case proceeded to trial on Sept. 24, 2012, where the evidence established that Toledo stabbed Arvin Toledo to death on Nov. 10, 2011, during an argument. The argument began over a \$100 debt owed by Toledo to Arvin Toledo, but escalated to include personal verbal attacks about Toledo and his family. According to the testimony, Toledo stabbed Arvin Toledo after he started making racially derogatory slurs about Toledo, who is of Indian and African-American descent.

The jury deliberated approximately seven hours before returning a verdict of not guilty on the second degree murder charge, and a verdict of guilty on the lesser included charge of voluntary manslaughter.

At sentencing, Toledo faces a maximum penalty of fifteen years of imprisonment. Toledo is in federal custody, and he remains detained pending his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled.

The case was investigated by the Gallup Office of the FBI and the Ramah Navajo Nation Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Niki Tapia-Brito and Presiliano Torrez.

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