



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

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**LAGUNA PUEBLO MAN CHARGED WITH ASSAULTING  
A FEDERALLY DEPUTIZED TRIBAL POLICE OFFICER**

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning in Albuquerque federal court, a U.S. Magistrate Judge entered an order releasing Phillip Derek Lorenzo, 23, a member and resident of Laguna Pueblo, to a half-way house pending trial on an indictment charging him with assaulting a federal officer.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Lorenzo was indicted on Sept. 25, 2012, on a charge of assaulting a federal officer on Nov. 11, 2011, in Cibola County, N.M. Lorenzo was arrested by agents of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) on Sept. 28, 2012, and entered a not guilty plea when he was arraigned on Oct. 1, 2012.

According to this morning's proceedings, on Nov. 11, 2011, Lorenzo allegedly repeatedly struck and kicked an officer of the Laguna Pueblo Tribal Police Department who holds a Special Law Enforcement Commission from the BIA when the officer responded to a call at a residence located in Laguna Pueblo.

If convicted of the offense charged in the indictment, Lorenzo faces a maximum penalty of 20 years of imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

The case was investigated by the BIA, Office of Justice Services, Southern Pueblos Agency, with assistance from the Laguna Pueblo Tribal Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kyle T. Nayback.

Charges in indictments are only accusations. All criminal defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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