



PRESS RELEASE

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**MESCALERO APACHE MAN SENTENCED TO FIFTEEN YEARS IN PRISON
FOR FEDERAL CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CONVICTION**

ALBUQUERQUE –Manuel Coronado Cervantes, 59, was sentenced to a 15-year term of imprisonment to be followed by ten years of supervised release by a U.S. District Judge in Santa Fe, N.M., this afternoon. The Judge also ordered Cervantes, a member of the Mescalero Apache Nation who resides in Mescalero, N.M., to comply with sex offender registration and notification requirements.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Cervantes was arrested on Dec. 23, 2010, based on a criminal complaint charging him with sexual abuse of a child. Cervantes has been in federal custody since that time.

On March 20, 2012, Cervantes entered a guilty plea to an information charging him with abusive sexual contact of a child who had not attained the age of 12 years. In entering his guilty plea, Cervantes admitted that, in July 2008, he knowingly engaged in sexual contact with a child under the age of 12 by touching the child's genitalia. He also acknowledged that the unlawful contact occurred in Indian County within Otero County, N.M.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services, Mescalero Agency, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Aaron O. Jordan of the U.S. Attorney's Las Cruces Branch Office.

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