



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian  
Northern District of New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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April 4, 2011

## PRESS RELEASE

Plattsburgh, New York—United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian announced today that on March 31, 2011, VICTOR J. LAZORE plead guilty before U.S. District Judge David N. Hurd in Utica, New York, to one count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The defendant will remain in the custody of the United States Marshal pending sentencing. Sentencing is scheduled for August 26, 2011 in Utica at 2:00 p.m.

LAZORE, age 25, of Hogansburg, New York, was arrested on a federal arrest warrant on February 4, 2011, by the St. Regis Mohawk Police Department who are leading the investigation with assistance of the New York State Police Troop B Gun Unit and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). LAZORE was indicted by the Federal Grand Jury in Plattsburgh, New York on March 23, 2011.

The charges arise from a September 13, 2010, traffic stop by the Saint Regis Mohawk Police on the St. Regis Mohawk Indian Reservation near Hogansburg, New York, of a vehicle operated by LAZORE but failing to display a license plate. Officers discovered two rifles and a shotgun in LAZORE's vehicle, as well as shotgun shells on his person and additional ammunition in the vehicle. Two of the three firearms had chambered ammunition. LAZORE's 2005 conviction of a state felony drug crime prohibits his possession of firearms. LAZORE claimed in materials he previously filed with the Court that one reason he possessed the firearms was that he was "an active member" of an Akwesasne "militia or national security force" and was thus "exempt from penalties of the firearms and explosives laws of the United States." He also claimed in open court to have

been hunting squirrels on the Akwesasne territory in Canada earlier in the day. Neither claim was a defense to the federal charge, as reflected in LAZORE's guilty plea on Thursday, March 31, 2011. U.S. Attorney Hartunian stated of this case, "This investigation and prosecution is an excellent example of the cooperative efforts of tribal, state and federal authorities to ensure public safety in the St. Regis Mohawk community, and to identify and punish persons who are prohibited from possessing firearms."

Any questions may be directed to Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Horsman in Plattsburgh at (518) 314-7800 or Deputy Criminal Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney William Pericak in Albany at (518) 431-0247.