



PRESS RELEASE

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**MESCALERO APACHE MAN SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS
IN PRISON FOR ABUSIVE SEXUAL CONTACT CONVICTION**

ALBUQUERQUE – Yesterday afternoon, a federal judge in Las Cruces, N.M., sentenced Riley Maurice Chino, 60, a member of the Mescalero Apache Nation, to a three-year term of imprisonment for his abusive sexual contact conviction, announced U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales. Chino will be on supervised release for a year after he completes his prison sentence. He also will be required to register as a sex offender.

Chino was arrested in Arizona on Dec. 14, 2011, based on a criminal complaint alleging that he sexually violated a Mescalero Apache woman at his home, which is located on the Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation, in June 2011. He has been in federal custody since his arrest.

On April 10, 2012, Chino entered a guilty plea to an information charging him with abusive sexual contact. In his plea agreement, Chino admitted that on June 15, 2011, he violated the victim by fondling her and penetrating her genitals with his finger without her consent.

The case was investigated by the Las Cruces Office of the FBI with assistance from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services, Mescalero Agency, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Marisa Lizarraga.

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