

For Immediate Release
May 17, 2011

MESCALERO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL ASSAULT CHARGES

LAS CRUCES – Earlier today in federal court in Las Cruces, **Gene Collins Ahidley**, 28, pled guilty to a two-count indictment charging him with assault resulting in serious bodily injury and assault with a deadly weapon. Ahidley, a member of the Mescalero Apache Nation, was arrested on September 15, 2010 and remains in federal custody pending his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled. At sentencing, Ahidley faces up to 10 years of imprisonment on each assault offense.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Ahidley pled guilty to assaulting his victim with his fists, feet and a tree branch on August 24, 2006, on the Mescalero Apache Reservation. According to the criminal complaint, on that date, Ahidley drove the victim, his girlfriend and mother of his children, to a remote location behind the Pena Housing Area where he assaulted her by repeatedly punching her in the face, kneeling her in the body and face, and kicking her legs and back. Ahidley then found a 30-inch long and three-inch thick tree branch and used it to strike his victim on the legs, the face and back of her head. When the attack began, the victim was holding the couple's two-year-old child. The complaint alleged that the victim suffered injuries to her head, neck, torso and legs.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services, Mescalero Agency. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jacob A. Wishard.

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