

For Immediate Release  
May 25, 2011

**NAVAJO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL  
CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE OFFENSE**

ALBUQUERQUE – Today in federal court in Albuquerque, **Johnny Begay**, a 56-year-old enrolled member of the Navajo Nation who resides in Kirtland, New Mexico, entered a guilty plea to a one-count information charging him with abusive sexual contact under a plea agreement with the United States Attorney's Office. Under the terms of the plea agreement, Begay will serve a 30-month term of imprisonment to be followed by not more than five-years of supervised release. After Begay completes his prison sentence, he will be required to register as a sex offender. Begay remains on release under pretrial services supervision pending his sentencing hearing which has yet to be scheduled.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Begay initially was charged with aggravated sexual abuse of a child under the age of twelve years in an indictment filed on July 25, 2007. The indictment alleged that Begay sexually assaulted the child on a date between March 1, 2006 and April 30, 2006 in a location within the boundaries of the Navajo Indian Reservation. A superseding indictment was filed on April 9, 2009. Court records reveal that proceedings in the case were protracted due to appeals taken from pretrial orders.

In his plea agreement, Begay admitted that, on a date between August 1, 2000 and August 31, 2000, he sexually molested a child under the age of twelve by touching her genitals. Under the terms of the plea agreement, the indictments against Begay will be dismissed after he is sentenced.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Navajo Nation Department of Public Safety, and was prosecuted by Supervisory Assistant United States

Attorney Glynette R. Carson-McNabb and Assistant United States Attorney Presiliano Torrez.

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11-248