

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
for the  
District of New Mexico

United States District Court  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Mitchell R. Elfers  
Clerk of Court

United States of America  
v.

Leon Garcia

YOB 1983

*Defendant(s)*

Case No. **25mj483**

**CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of March 18, 2025 in the county of Cibola in the  
District of New Mexico, the defendant(s) violated:

*Code Section*

*Offense Description*

18 U.S.C. § 1153

Offenses Committed within Indian Country

18 U.S.C. § 113(a)(3)

Assault with a Dangerous Weapon

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See attached.

☒ Continued on the attached sheet.



*Complainant's signature*

James Ridder, FBI Special Agent

*Printed name and title*

Telephonically sworn and electronically signed.

Date: 3/19/25

City and state: Alb., NM



*Judge's signature*

Steven C. Yarbrough, US Magistrate Judge

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF  
CRIMINAL COMPLAINT AND ARREST WARRANT

I, James Ridder, being duly sworn, state as follows:

1. This affidavit is made in support of a Criminal Complaint for LEON GARCIA, (hereinafter referred to as GARCIA), year of birth 1983.

2. I am a Special Agent with the FBI and have been so employed since January 2016. I am currently assigned to the Albuquerque Field Office, Gallup Resident Agency. My primary duties as a Special Agent with the FBI include investigating crimes occurring in Indian Country. I have gained experience in the conduct of such investigations through previous case investigations, formal training, and in consultation with law enforcement partners in local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies. As a Federal Agent, I am authorized to investigate violations of the laws of the United States and have authority to execute criminal complaints and search warrants issued under the authority of the United States.

3. This affidavit is based upon my personal investigation at the scene, as well as information reported to me by other federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement officers during the course of their official duties. Throughout this affidavit, reference will be made to law enforcement officers. Law enforcement officers are those federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement officers who have directly participated in this investigation. This affidavit is also based upon information gained from interviews with cooperating citizen witnesses, whose reliability is established separately herein.

4. Based on my training, experience, and the facts set forth in this affidavit, I believe there is probable cause that violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1153 - Offenses committed in Indian country, and 18 U.S.C. § 113(a)(3) – Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, have been committed by GARCIA.

5. Because this affidavit is submitted for the limited purpose of securing authorization for the proposed warrant, I have not included each and every fact known to me concerning this investigation. This affidavit is intended to show that there is sufficient probable cause for the requested arrest warrant.

PROBABLE CAUSE

6. On March 18, 2025, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Albuquerque

(AQ), Gallup Resident Agency, was contacted by Ramah-Navajo Police Department (RNPD) regarding a shooting that occurred within the exterior boundaries of the Ramah-Navajo Indian Reservation.

7. Law enforcement responded to Gallup Indian Medical Center (GIMC) where S.J., year of birth 1974 (hereinafter referred to as JOHN DOE), was in the Emergency Department (ED). JOHN DOE had what is believed by law enforcement to be a gunshot wound to the right cheek.

8. Also at GIMC were: M.G., year of birth 1972 (hereinafter JANE DOE 1) and J.J., year of birth 1996 (hereinafter JANE DOE 2).

9. JOHN DOE and JANE DOES 1 and 2 (collectively referred to as DOES) were interviewed by law enforcement. DOES stated that they were in JOHN DOE's vehicle with JOHN DOE driving, JANE DOE 2 in the front passenger seat, and JANE DOE 1 in the back seat on the passenger side. JOHN DOE swerved off the road to avoid a collision from an oncoming blue Jeep. The driver of the blue Jeep was later identified by DOES as GARCIA. JOHN DOE turned their vehicle around and followed the blue Jeep back to the road leading to what is believed to be GARCIA's residence. The blue Jeep pulled up to the gate leading to the residence. As JOHN DOE'S vehicle approached and stopped, GARCIA exited the Jeep and approached JOHN DOE's vehicle with a rifle. GARCIA shot through the windshield. DOES believed JOHN DOE was hit in the face with the first gunshot. As JOHN DOE attempted to turn their vehicle to drive away, GARCIA shot at the vehicle multiple times. As JOHN DOE drove away, GARCIA shot at the vehicle again.

10. Law enforcement knows GARCIA to have a violent criminal history, to include Aggravated Assault, Aggravated Battery, and Voluntary Manslaughter.

11. Information provided to law enforcement indicate JOHN DOE, JANE DOE 1 and 2 are enrolled members of the Navajo Nation Indian Tribe. It is believed by law enforcement that GARCIA is also an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation Indian Tribe.

12. Based upon information and belief, the location of where the shooting took place is located on the Ramah Navajo Reservation.

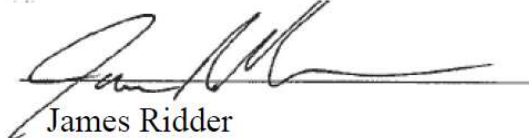
#### CONCLUSION

13. Based on the information set forth in this affidavit, I believe there is probable


cause to charge GARCIA with a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1153 - Offenses committed in Indian country, and 18 U.S.C. § 113(a)(3) – Assault with a Dangerous Weapon.

14. Assistant United States Attorney Elisa Dimas has reviewed and approved this affidavit.

I swear that this information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

  
James Ridder  
Special Agent  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Telephonically sworn and electronically signed before me this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025.

  
STEVEN YARBROUGH  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE