



PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FORMER TOHONO O'ODHAM JUSTICE CENTER JURY MANAGER SENTENCED TO PRISON

PHOENIX, ARIZONA –The United States Attorneys Office for the District of Arizona, announced that on April 11, 2003, Lorraine C. Lewis, date of birth January 4, 1957, of Sells, Arizona, was sentenced to 30 months in the Bureau of Prison, to be followed by 36 months supervised release, by United States District Judge David C. Bury, in Tucson, Arizona.

Ms. Lewis had entered a plea of guilty on September 27, 2001, to Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute 1,000 kilograms or more of marijuana. At that time, she admitted being involved with Ralph Pablo, and with her sons, Harrison Lewis and Darnell Encinas, in the storing and transportation of approximately 2600 pounds of marijuana from Spring 2000, through July 2000. Mr. Encinas made arrangements with marijuana “backpackers” to unload and store marijuana at Ms. Lewis’ residence in Sells, Arizona, on the Tohono O’Odham Indian Reservation. From there, Ms. Lewis, her sons and their friend transported the marijuana to Tucson, Arizona in personal vehicles. At least four times, Ms. Lewis personally participated in the deliveries to Tucson, and on another five occasions permitted Pablo, Harrison Lewis and/or Encinas to use her vehicle to transport the marijuana to Tucson.

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At the time Ms. Lewis was participating in drug trafficking, she was employed by the Tohono O'odham Justice Center as a Jury Manager, where she had worked since 1994. Following a lengthy investigation by the United States Customs Service, Tohono O'odham Police Department, and Federal Bureau of Investigation, charges were issued against Ms. Lewis in April 2001, and Ms. Lewis's employment with the Nation was terminated.

The prosecution was handled by Mary Sue Feldmeier, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-01-460-003-TUC-DCB
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