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ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – A Gallup man has been sentenced to prison for a murder he reportedly committed in 2018.

According to an FBI report, Darrell Desiderio and an accomplice conspired to kidnap a victim, identified as John Doe, and take the victim's truck, on June 7, 2018. The accomplice lured John Doe to Desiderio, 45, and an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, to assist Desiderio in acquiring a vehicle.

Under the pretense that Desiderio "knew some women who would want to 'party,'" the accomplice and John Doe picked up Desiderio and drove north of Gallup to a remote area. Desiderio ordered John Doe to pull over and pressed a knife to his throat. During a struggle for the keys to the vehicle, Desiderio stabbed John Doe.

The victim died as a result of the wounds. The murder occurred in McKinley County, on the Navajo Nation.

Alexander M.M. Uballez, United States Attorney for the District of New Mexico, announced that Desiderio was sentenced on Dec. 16 to 25 years in prison. Desiderio pleaded guilty on July 26, 2021, to second degree murder in Indian Country.

Upon his release from prison, Desiderio will be subject to five years of supervised release.

The Gallup resident Agency of the FBI Albuquerque Field Office investigated this case with

assistance from the Gallup Police Department, McKinley County Sheriff's Office and the Navajo Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Joseph Spindle prosecuted the case.

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