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United States Attorney
Eastern District of Washington

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Contact: Letitia Sikes
Public Affairs Specialist
USAWAE.Media@usdoj.gov

Yakama Repeat Offender Sentenced to 7 Years in Prison

Yakima, Washington –United States District Judge Mary K. Dimke sentenced Mitchell Jason Ranesh aka Cricket, an enrolled member of the Yakama Nation, age 45, of Toppenish, Washington, to 7 years in federal prison for being a felon in possession of ammunition. Ranesh will also be on federal supervised release for three years after serving his custodial sentence.

According to court records, Ranesh pattern of criminal history led to this recent sentence. On September 6, 2000, Ranesh was convicted of Drive-By-Shooting and sentenced to 33 months in prison. He was subsequently released, placed on a term of supervised release, violated his term of supervised release and was sent back to prison. On September 17, 2007, Ranesh was convicted of being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm and sentenced to 77 months in prison. He was subsequently released, placed on a term of supervised release, again violated his term of supervised release and was again sent back to prison. On January 23, 2024, the Defendant was convicted of being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm and sentenced to 15 months imprisonment. Ranesh was released from prison and on March 25, 2024, began serving a term of supervised release, and for a third time, violated his terms of supervised release and was sentenced to a time served sentence followed by a term of 34 months of supervised release.

Upon his recent release from prison, Ranesh again engaged in dangerous conduct. On January 22, 2025, law enforcement officers were looking for Ranesh due to an outstanding arrest warrant. Ranesh was observed in a vehicle. The driver of the vehicle fled, attempting to elude pursuing police vehicles. After a lengthy car chase, the suspect car crashed near a residence and Ranesh was apprehended. Ranesh was later booked into the Yakima County jail. During the booking process, 6 rounds of ammunition was in Ranesh' pocket, a new federal crime.

On April 9, 2025, a federal indictment was filed charging Ranesh with being a Felon in Possession of Ammunition and on October 17, 2025, he pled guilty to the Indictment.

On February 3, 2026, Judge Mary K. Dimke imposed a sentence of 84 months to be followed by 3 years of supervised release. Judge Dimke based her sentence on Ranesh' lengthy criminal history involving firearms and found significant the multiple opportunities he had on prior

supervision to attain services for substance abuse which he did not take advantage of and instead had a history of absconding and engaging in new criminal conduct.

United States Attorney Serrano stated, “I’m grateful to our office for pursuing this case. While some may question why the United States would prosecute the possession of ammunition, there is no need to look beyond Mr. Ranes’ persistent firearms-related criminal history. Yakima is now safer with Mr. Ranes off the streets for the next 7 years.”

Lieutenant Church with the Yakima County Sheriff’s state, “This case is a great example of collaboration with fellow law enforcement and federal partners working to get a dangerous person with a significant criminal history off the streets for a significant amount of time. This type of collaboration is what it takes to truly make an impact on public safety in Yakima County. Thanks again to our law enforcement partners and the US Attorney’s Office.”

“Mr. Ranes has a pattern of criminal history dating back over a quarter century in which he repeatedly violated his supervised release and persisted in possessing firearms despite being prohibited from doing so by federal law,” said W. Mike Herrington, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Seattle field office. “Together with our partners, the FBI’s Safe Streets Task Forces will continue to combat violent crime throughout the state of Washington and nationwide.”

This case was investigated by the Southeast Washington Safe Streets Task Force which consists of agents and task force officers from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”), the Yakima County Sheriff’s Office, the Toppenish Police Department, and United States Customs and Border Protection. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Tom Hanlon.

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