



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION IN GILROY TARGETS INDIVIDUALS WHO COMMITTED VIOLET CRIMINAL ACTS

Twenty-seven federal defendants indicted, appear in court

San Jose, Calif. – Following a coordinated undercover operation that took place in Gilroy, Calif., and involved local, State and Federal law enforcement officials, 27 individuals who were arrested last night and early this morning on weapon and drug charges made their initial appearances in federal court today, United States Attorney Melinda Haag; Stephen C. Herkins, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); and Gilroy Chief of Police Denise J. Turner announced.

In March of 2010, ATF began an undercover operation with the Gilroy Police Department that targeted individuals who commit violent, criminal acts. The investigation focused on individuals operating in the California counties of Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito. The operation's objective was to take people who traffic in firearms and narcotics, primarily methamphetamine, off the street.

The following defendants made their initial appearances in federal court in San Jose today:

Jose Romero, 27, charged with two counts of felon in possession of a firearm, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1); one count of possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(k); one count of possession of an unregistered firearm, in violation of 26 U.S.C. § 5861(d); one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute methamphetamine in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846; and one count of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B)(viii).

Cala Remick, 28, charged with one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846; and one count of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B)(viii).

Joshua Moore, 35, charged with one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846; and one count of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B)(viii).

Arianna Baca, 25, charged with two counts of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846; two counts of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B)(viii).

Michael Ruelas, 28, charged with two counts of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846; two counts of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B)(viii); and one count of felon in possession of firearm, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1).

Joshua Flores, 28, charged with two counts of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B)(viii).

Frank Herrera, 40, charged with one count of felon in possession of firearm, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1); and one count of possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(k).

Adrian Gamino, 31, charged with two counts of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A)(viii); and one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846.

Arturo Cervantes, 20, charged with one count of possession of an unregistered sawed-off shot gun, in violation of 26 U.S.C. § 5861(d); and one count of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B)(viii).

Rigoberto Ramirez, 24, charged with two counts of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §

841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B)(viii); one count of felon in possession of firearm and ammunition, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1).

Frank Machado, 37, charged with one count conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846; and two counts possession with intent to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B)(viii).

Simon Hernandez, 37, charged with one count of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B)(viii).

Melissa Duarte, 31, charged with three counts of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846; and four counts of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B)(viii).

Enrique Quintero, 44, charged with two counts of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A)(viii)(2); and two counts of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846.

Rodolfo Contreras, 23, charged with one count of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B)(viii).

Adolfo Vasquez, 33, charged with one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846; and two counts of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B)(viii).

Maria Hernandez, 45, charged with one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846; and one count of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B)(viii).

Addel Montero, 23, charged with one count of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B)(viii).

Leonard Silga, 43, charged with three counts of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846; three counts of possession with Intent to Distribute and Distribution of Methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B)(viii); and three Counts felon in possession of firearm, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1).

Christina Chavez, 39, charged with one count of Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute and to Distribute Methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846; and one count of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B)(viii).

Frank Cardenas, 34, charged with one count of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B)(viii); two counts of felon in possession of firearm, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1).

Paul Zabala, 48, charged with one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846; and two counts of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A)(viii).

Jose Gonzalez, 29, charged with two counts of felon in possession of firearm, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1); three counts of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B)(viii); and one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846.

Hugo Mora, 41, charged with one count of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B)(viii).

Miguel Gonzalez, 37, charged with one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846; and two counts of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B)(viii).

Robert Reddick, 29, charged with one count of felon in possession of a firearm, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §922(g)(1).

Everdo Robles-Carvahal, 21, charged with one count of felon in possession of a firearm, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1); one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846 ; and one count of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B)(viii).

The maximum statutory penalty for each count of Possession with Intent to Distribute / Distribution / Conspiracy to Distribute or Possession with Intent to Distribute 50 grams or more of Actual Methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 846, 841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(A)(viii) is life in prison, a \$4 million fine, five years of supervised release and a mandatory special assessment \$ 100. The maximum statutory penalty for each count of Possession with Intent to Distribute / Distribution / Conspiracy to Distribute or Possession with Intent to Distribute 5 grams or more of Actual Methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 846, 841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(B)(viii) is 40 years in prison, a fine of \$2 million, a life time term of supervised release with a minimum term of 4 years and a mandatory special assessment of \$100. The maximum statutory penalty for each count of felon in possession of a firearm, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1) is 10 years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, 3 years of supervised release and a mandatory \$100 special assessment. The maximum statutory penalty for each count of Possession of an Unregistered Sawed-Off Shot Gun, in violation of 26 U.S.C. § 5861(d), is 10 years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, 3 years of supervised release and a mandatory special assessment of \$100. The maximum statutory penalty for Possession of

a Firearm with Removed or Altered Serial Number in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(k), is five years in prison a fine of \$250,000, three years of supervised release and a mandatory special assessment of \$100. However, any sentence following conviction would be imposed by the court after consideration of the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and the federal statute governing the imposition of a sentence, 18 U.S.C. § 3553.

Thomas O'Connell and Daniel Kaleba are the Assistant U.S. Attorneys who are prosecuting the case with the assistance of Tracey Andersen. The prosecution is the result of a one and a-half year investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; and the Gilroy Police Department.

In addition to the ATF and the Gilroy Police Department, the following agencies have provided support to this investigation: the California Highway Patrol; Salinas Police Department; Morgan Hill Police Department; Monterey County Sheriff's Office; auto theft task forces from Monterey County, Santa Cruz County and Santa Clara County; the National Insurance Crime Bureau; the Western States Information Network; the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area task force; the United States Marshal's Service; and Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations.

Please note, an indictment contains only allegations against an individual and, as with all defendants, the defendants listed above must be presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Further Information:

Case #s	CR 11-00597 RMW, CR 11-00593 EJD, CR 11-00591 DLJ, CR 11-00640 EJD, CR 11-00558 LHK, CR 11-00560 DLJ, CR 11-00616 EJD, CR 11-00595 LHK, CR 11-00596EJD, CR 11-00661 RMW, CR 11-00639, CR 11-00567 EJD, CR 11-00641 DLJ, CR 11-00550 DLJ, CR 11-00621 LHK, CR 11-00658 LHK, CR 11-00557 RMW, CR 11-00551 LHK, CR 11-00549 EJD, CR 11-00550 DLJ, CR 11-00619 DLJ, CR 11-00617 RMW, CR 11-00594 DLJ, CR 11-00660, CR 11-00590 LHK, CR 11-00659 DLJ, CR 11-00593 EJD
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A copy of this press release may be found on the U.S. Attorney's Office's website at www.usdoj.gov/usao/can.

Electronic court filings and further procedural and docket information are available at <https://ecf.cand.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/login.pl>.

Judges' calendars with schedules for upcoming court hearings can be viewed on the court's website at www.cand.uscourts.gov.

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