



U.S. Department of Justice

Kenneth J. Gonzales

United States Attorney

District of New Mexico

201 3rd Street NW

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

CONTACT: *Elizabeth M. Martinez, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Public Affairs Officer*
elizabeth.martinez@usdoj.gov – 505-224-1469

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

November 2, 2010

FORMER UNION PRESIDENT SENTENCED
ON FEDERAL WIRE FRAUD CONVICTION

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales announced that, earlier today, United States District Judge William P. Johnson sentenced **Fidel R. Garza**, the 58-year old former President of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) AFL-CIO Local Union 2063 (the Union), to a four-month term of imprisonment to be followed by three years of supervised release based on his wire fraud conviction. Judge Johnson also ordered Garza to pay restitution in the amount of \$77,457.89 to the Union and \$10,000.00 to Fidelity & Deposit Company of Maryland. Garza is required to surrender to serve his term of imprisonment at a federal prison facility to be designated by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons on December 1, 2010.

Garza, the President of the Union from January 2000 through August 2004, was charged with 58 counts of wire fraud in an indictment filed on December 3, 2008. According to the indictment, Garza devised a scheme to defraud the Union and its members by using debit cards issued to the Union to fraudulently withdraw Union membership funds for his own personal use. The indictment alleges that the Union and

its members suffered losses totaling \$84,627.89 as a result of Garza's illegal scheme. On March 18, 2010, Garza entered a guilty plea to a one-count information charging him with wire fraud under a plea agreement with the United States Attorney's Office. In the plea agreement, Garza admitted using two debit cards issued to the Union to make personal purchases and cash withdrawals exceeding \$70,000.00.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Paul H. Spiers and was investigated by the United States Department of Labor, Office of Labor Management Standards.

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