



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Public Affairs
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DRUG TRAFFICKER SENTENCED TO TEN ADDITIONAL MONTHS FOR ATTEMPTED PRISON ESCAPE

Yuma, Ariz. – Jesus A. Murrieta-Perez, 42, a federal inmate in prison for drug trafficking, received a consecutive 10 month sentence on Tuesday, June 2, 2009, by U.S. District Judge Paul G. Rosenblatt for his June 30, 2008, escape attempt from the San Luis Detention Center in San Luis, Arizona. Murrieta-Perez had been sentenced to 87 months in prison for drug trafficking on May 4, 2009.

On April 12, 2008, Murrieta-Perez entered the United States from the Republic of Mexico through the San Luis, Ariz. Port of Entry. The defendant was the driver and sole occupant of a late model Ford Windstar van. At the Port of Entry, a drug detection dog alerted to the defendant's vehicle. Murrieta-Perez was referred to secondary inspection. Subsequent inspection of the vehicle resulted in the discovery of a compartment, concealing 14 wrapped packages containing methamphetamine. The net weight of the packages was determined to be 11.58 kilograms. The purity of the wrapped packages was determined to be 100%. Murrieta-Perez admitted that he was to receive payment for delivering the drugs into the United States and that this was not the first time he had transported illegal narcotics into the United States.

A few days after entering into his plea to the drug trafficking offense, the defendant attempted an escape from the San Luis Detention Center, a federally contracted detention facility, in San Luis, Arizona, by impersonating another inmate. The defendant's escape attempt was discovered by Border Patrol agents upon arrival of the defendant at the Border Patrol station in Yuma. The defendant was subsequently charged with a felony offense for attempted escape from federal custody. The 10 month sentence for attempting to escape from federal custody was ordered to run consecutively to the defendant's drug violation, resulting in a total term of 97 months in prison for the two offenses.

The investigation of the escape case was conducted by the U.S. Marshals Service, Yuma, Arizona. The prosecution was handled by Bret Alexander with the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: Drug Case: CR-08-00712-001-PHX-JAT
Escape Case: CR-08-01217-001-PHX-PGR
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