



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown  
Eastern District of California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, October 9, 2009

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Docket #: No. 1:09-CR-00181-LJO

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## **BAKERSFIELD FIREARMS TRAFFICKER SENTENCED TO 6 YEARS, 5 MONTHS**

### ***Sentence Enhanced for Making Threatening Phone Call to Witness***

FRESNO, Calif. – United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced today that yesterday, United States District Judge Lawrence J. O’Neill sentenced KEVIN MUZINICH, 53, formerly of Bakersfield, to six years and five months in prison, followed by a three-year term of supervised release for his conviction on possession of a firearm by a felon.

This case is the product of a joint investigation conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration into gun and methamphetamine trafficking in the Bakersfield area.

Stated U.S. Attorney Brown, “A convicted felon peddling firearms and methamphetamine in the Valley is off the streets due to the excellent work of the ATF and the DEA.”

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Marlon Cobar, who prosecuted the case, on January 31, 2007, MUZINICH sold an Intertec, TEC-9, 9 mm pistol to an ATF informant for \$1,040.00. He purported that the firearm had been illegally modified to be fully automatic. The meeting at MUZINICH’s residence followed negotiations and the controlled sales of firearms and small amounts of methamphetamine from MUZINICH to the confidential informant.

He was indicted on May 21, 2009 and pleaded guilty on July 10, 2009. In addition to the felon-in-possession of a firearm charge, Judge O’Neill enhanced the MUZINICH’s sentence because the TEC-9 he sold the informant had an obliterated serial number. Likewise, Judge O’Neill enhanced the sentence for obstructing justice by intimidating a witness. MUZINICH asked a female acquaintance to call the confidential informant in the case and tell him to “grow eyes in the back of his head,” as he was awaiting sentencing. ATF and DEA immediately investigated the call and reported their findings to the court.

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