



Department of Justice

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THREE STOCKTON BROTHERS INDICTED FOR GROWING MARIJUANA IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

FRESNO, Calif. — United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced today that a federal grand jury returned a single-count indictment charging GERMAN ARIAS-DIAZ, 27, OSVALDO ARIAS-DIAZ, 31, and JOSE ARIAS-DIAZ, 31, all of Stockton, with conspiring to manufacture marijuana.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the National Parks Service and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area task force.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Kevin Rooney, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment and court documents indicate that starting in June 2009 the ARIAS-DIAZ brothers worked together to grow approximately 3,500 marijuana plants inside Sequoia Kings Canyon National Park. They were arrested on October 6, 2009 when a federal search warrant was served on the Stockton residence they shared.

United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown stated, “This indictment was the result of hard work and follow through by numerous law enforcement agencies. The message is that our National Parks are not to be abused by marijuana traffickers.”

The maximum statutory penalty for conspiring to manufacture marijuana is life imprisonment. However, the actual sentence will be dictated by the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of factors, and will be imposed at the discretion of the court.

The charges are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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