

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

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For Immediate Release

LEADER OF MEXICAN METHAMPHETAMINE TRAFFICKING GROUP SENTENCED TO 210 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - August 17, 2009

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced today that Andres Chavez-Chavez, a leader of a Mexican methamphetamine trafficking organization, was sentenced today to serve a term of 210 months in federal prison by United States District Judge William Q. Hayes. Andres Chavez-Chavez was sentenced based on his June 17, 2008 guilty plea to participating in a conspiracy to distribute 220 pounds of methamphetamine.

In his plea agreement, Andres Chavez-Chavez admitted that he was the leader of a drug trafficking group which distributed methamphetamine to several individuals in the San Diego area. Andres Chavez-Chavez further admitted that, during the period of spring 2006 through May 2007, at least 220 pounds of methamphetamine were distributed in the San Diego area by the drug trafficking group he led. As noted by the Court during today's hearing, Andres Chavez-Chavez has spent his entire adult life in the drug trade and the nature and circumstances of the offense were quite aggravated.

The methamphetamine conspiracy charge stemmed from “Operation My Three Brothers,” a multi-agency investigation that was part of the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force program (OCDETF). Operation My Three Brothers involved several months of court-authorized wiretaps, hundreds of hours of surveillance, and 23 search warrants executed on residences located in San Diego County. In total, the investigation resulted in the arrest of 47 individuals, the indictment of 29 individuals, the seizure of approximately 75 pounds of methamphetamine, 15 firearms, and approximately \$295,000 in U.S. currency.

DEFENDANT

Case Number: 07cr1408-WQH

Andres Chavez-Chavez

SUMMARY OF CHARGE

Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine – Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846

INVESTIGATING AGENCIES

Drug Enforcement Administration (San Diego Field Office)
Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division
United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives
United States Marshals Service
Escondido Police Department
National City Police Department
San Diego County Sheriff’s Office