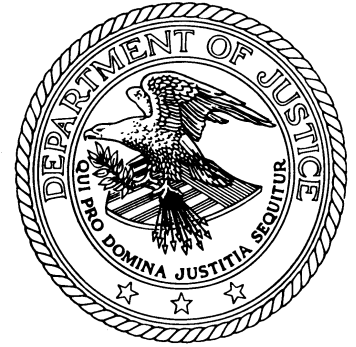


NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Karen P. Hewitt***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - September 8, 2009

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Julio Lua-Chavez, a member of a Mexican methamphetamine trafficking organization who had two prior drug trafficking convictions, was sentenced today to serve a term of 136 months in federal prison by United States District Judge William Q. Hayes. Julio Lua-Chavez was sentenced based on his October 2, 2008 guilty plea to possession of 5.9 grams of methamphetamine (actual) with intent to distribute in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1).

In his plea agreement, Julio Lua-Chavez admitted that (1) he possessed 5.0 grams of methamphetamine (actual) with intent to distribute, (2) the methamphetamine had been imported from Mexico, (3) there was a 9mm handgun in the area where the methamphetamine was stored, and (4) he supervised another individual who acted as a lookout in the garage where the methamphetamine was stored. In imposing the 136-month sentence, Judge Hayes noted that Julio Lua-Chavez was an undocumented alien with two prior felony drug convictions and was properly classified as a Career Offender under the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

United States Attorney Hewitt praised the investigative efforts of the San Diego Field Office of the Drug

Enforcement Administration, and federal and state law enforcement partners including the Criminal Investigations Division of the Internal Revenue Service, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, United States Marshals Service, Escondido Police Department, National City Police Department, and San Diego County Sheriff's Department.

DEFENDANT

Case Number: 07cr1407-WQH

Julio Lua-Chavez

SUMMARY OF CHARGE

Possession With Intent To Distribute Methamphetamine – Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1)

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 Department