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# **News Release**

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## **2 sentenced in connection with distributing marijuana**

The second of two men was sentenced today in federal court in connection with a Twin Cities marijuana distribution operation.

On Dec. 30 in Minneapolis, United States District Court Judge James Rosenbaum sentenced Jorge Marques-Apodaca, 27, Bloomington, to 30 months in prison and three years supervised release on one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute marijuana.

A second defendant, Astolfo Garcia-Gonzales, 25, Savage, was sentenced on Dec. 8 to one year in prison and three years supervised release on one count of maintaining a drug-involved premises. Both men were indicted on June 9. Marques-Apodaca pleaded guilty on Aug. 6, and Garcia-Gonzales pleaded guilty on Aug. 20.

According to their respective plea agreements, Marques-Apodaca admitted that from November 2007 to June 2008 he conspired with others to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute approximately 1,300 pounds of marijuana.

Garcia-Gonzales admitted to having assisted Marques-Apodaca in his drug-trafficking operation by providing a place to unlawfully store the marijuana in a Savage townhome he was renting.

According to a Federal Bureau of Investigation affidavit, Marques-Apodaca had been under investigation for six months, and the FBI had arranged a controlled buy from him on May 14, 2008. Police observed a vehicle that left Marques-Apodaca's Bloomington residence and traveled to a townhouse located on Cates Lake Drive in Savage.

Police stopped the vehicle on a traffic stop, and during a search of the vehicle police found six bricks of marijuana in the trunk. Each brick weighed approximately 2 pounds. During the execution of a search warrant at the Savage townhouse, police seized approximately 200 pounds of marijuana, according to the affidavit.

This case was the result of an investigation by the FBI and the police departments of Bloomington, Minneapolis and Savage, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David P. Steinkamp.