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PRESS RELEASE

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SNM GANG MEMBER SENTENCED TO 8-YEARS
IMPRISONMENT ON FEDERAL FIREARMS CONVICTION

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales announced that, earlier today, United States District Judge William P. Johnson sentenced **Victor Villalobos**, 37, a convicted felon and reported member of the Syndicato Nuevo Mexico (SNM) prison gang, to a 100-month term of imprisonment to be followed by three years of supervised release based on his federal firearms conviction. Villalobos has been in custody since his arrest on July 24, 2009.

According to the criminal complaint filed in July 2009, Villalobos was arrested on July 24, 2009 by officers of the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) on an outstanding misdemeanor warrant after the APD Repeat Offender Project received a tip reporting that Villalobos, a convicted felon, was staying in a local motel and was in possession of firearms. Following Villalobos' arrest, APD officers executed a search warrant in the motel room that Villalobos was sharing with his wife and recovered eight fully functional firearms with obliterated serial numbers and ammunition. APD officers also recovered a shotgun with an obliterated serial number and ammunition from Villalobos' vehicle.

Villalobos was indicted by a federal grand jury in August 2009, and pled guilty to being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition on August 16, 2010 under a plea agreement with the U.S. Attorney's Office. In his plea agreement, Villalobos admitted that he purchased the firearms recovered from his vehicle and motel room in Colorado with the intention of reselling them. Villalobos also admitted that, in July 2009, he previously had been convicted of aggravated battery with a dangerous weapon, escape from jail, tampering with evidence, forgery, receiving or transferring a stolen motor vehicle, and armed robbery.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys David Walsh, Linda Mott and Kimberly Brawley, and was investigated by the APD and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

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