

For Immediate Release  
April 14, 2011

**MEXICAN NATIONAL SENTENCED TO 78-MONTHS IN PRISON  
FOR FEDERAL DRUG TRAFFICKING CONVICTION**

ALBUQUERQUE – This afternoon in federal court in Albuquerque, **Juan Ayvar-Lopez**, 32, was sentenced to a 78-month term of imprisonment for his conviction on federal narcotics trafficking offenses. Juan Ayvar-Lopez, a citizen of Mexico, will be deported, after he completes his prison sentence.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales that Juan Ayvar-Lopez and his brother and co-defendant, **Ernesto Ayvar-Lopez**, 26, were arrested on methamphetamine and heroin trafficking charges by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) on May 1, 2009. Both men have been in federal custody since that time. Juan Ayvar-Lopez and Ernesto Ayvar-Lopez initially were charged in a criminal complaint, and were indicted on May 28, 2009. The four-count indictment charged the two men with: conspiracy to violate the narcotics laws (count 1); possession of more than 500 grams of methamphetamine with intent to distribute (count 2); possession of more than one kilogram of heroin with intent to distribute (count 3); and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime (count 4).

Juan Ayvar-Lopez entered guilty pleas to counts 1, 2 and 3 of the indictment on January 14, 2011, under a plea agreement with the United States Attorney's Office. His plea agreement reflects that the DEA in Albuquerque initiated the investigation leading to the arrests of Juan Ayvar-Lopez and Ernesto Ayvar-Lopez based on information from the DEA in Phoenix. Court records indicate that Juan Ayvar-Lopez's name surfaced during a Phoenix wiretap investigation, and that the DEA in Albuquerque was able to intercept a load of drugs intended for him during its investigation.

In his plea agreement, Juan Ayvar-Lopez admitted that, on May 1, 2009, he permitted DEA agents to search his residence, and that the agents found evidence of drug trafficking activities, including cash and drug ledgers, when they conducted the search. He acknowledged knowing that his brother Ernesto Ayvar-Lopez provided verbal and written consent for the DEA agents to search his residence, and that the agents recovered more a large amount of cash, three handguns, drug paraphernalia and evidence tying Juan Ayvar-Lopez to drug trafficking activities when they searched Ernesto Ayvar-Lopez's residence. The agents also found more than 800 grams of actual methamphetamine and over 500 grams of cocaine when they searched the backyard of the residence.

On March 28, 2011, Ernesto Ayvar-Lopez also entered guilty pleas to counts 1, 2 and 3 of the indictment. His sentencing hearing has yet to be scheduled.

The case was investigated by the DEA, and is being prosecuted by Jon K. Stanford.

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