

For Immediate Release  
April 29, 2011

**ALBUQUERQUE MAN SENTENCED TO 125-MONTHS IN PRISON FOR  
FEDERAL MARIJUANA CONSPIRACY CONVICTION**

SANTA FE - On April 28, 2011 in federal court in Santa Fe, **Manuel Mendias-Medina**, a 38-year-old Albuquerque resident, was sentenced to 125-month in prison for his conviction on federal marijuana trafficking charges. Mendias-Medina will be on supervised release for five years after he completes his prison sentence.

Mendias-Medina and 12 co-defendants were charged with conspiracy to distribute marijuana in a 12-count federal indictment filed on May 21, 2009. Mendias-Medina was charged in Count 1, charging all 13 defendants with the marijuana distribution conspiracy; Counts 3 and 5, charging Mendias-Medina and five other co-defendants with possession with intent to distribute marijuana; and Count 12, charging Mendias-Medina and three other co-defendants with money laundering. According to the indictment, Mendias-Medina and his co-defendants were involved in storing, transporting, and distributing more than 4,500 kilograms of marijuana between January 2007 and December 19, 2008. The group maintained drug stash houses in Doña Ana County. The group used tractor trailers to transport marijuana from Doña Ana County to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where the marijuana was transferred to passenger vehicles and transported out of New Mexico.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that the following co-defendants have been sentenced in this case:

- Defendant Derrick Othole, 33, of Albuquerque was sentenced on June 22, 2010, to five years in prison for conspiracy and possession with intent to distribute marijuana.

- Defendant Jose Ramon Felix-Duarte, 29, of Mexico, was sentenced to April 15, 2011, to 37 months in prison for conspiracy, possession with the intent to distribute marijuana, and money laundering.
- Defendant Barney Jesus Perez, 30, of Huntsville, Alabama was sentenced on June 22, 2010, to 30 months for conspiracy and possession with the intent to distribute marijuana.
- Defendant Emmanuell Martinez, 29, of Albuquerque, New Mexico was sentenced on January 11, 2011 to 60 months for conspiracy and possession with the intent to distribute marijuana.
- Defendant Michael Lira, 21, of El Paso, Texas was sentenced on June 22, 2010, to time served (8 days) and three years of supervised release for conspiracy and money laundering.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Doña Ana County Sheriff's Office, the New Mexico State Police, and the New Mexico Department of Transportation, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Sarah M. Davenport.

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