

For Immediate Release
May 5, 2011

**ALBUQUERQUE MAN RECEIVES 10-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE
FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING CONVICTION**

20 Defendants Charged in Case Targeting Gang-Related Drug Trafficking Activity

ALBUQUERQUE – This afternoon in federal court in Albuquerque, a United States District Judge sentenced **Margarito Andrade, Jr.**, 28, to a ten-year term of imprisonment to be followed by five-years of supervised release for his conviction for conspiracy to violate federal narcotics laws. Andrade, a resident of Albuquerque, has been in federal custody since his arrest in March 2010.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Andrade, a member of the Brew Town Locos gang who went by the gang monikers of Bird, Pee Wee, and Pee Wee Loco and was shown during the investigation to be a leader of the gang's drug trafficking activities, was one of 20 defendants charged in a 33-count superseding indictment filed on March 24, 2010. The indictment was the culmination of a two-year organized crime operation code-named "Itsy Bitsy Spider" that was led the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and targeted the Albuquerque Street Gang Brew Town Locos for its drug trafficking activities in and about the Albuquerque area. The code-name for the organized crime operation was derived from the gang's symbol, a black widow spider. On March 30, 2010, the DEA executed 16 simultaneous search warrants in support of this long-term investigation and arrested Andrade and 17 co-defendants of the 20 defendants charged in the superseding indictment.

The superseding indictment charged all 20 defendants with conspiring to violate the federal narcotics laws by distributing controlled substances, including cocaine, cocaine base (crack) and marijuana in the District of New Mexico between March 2008 and March 2010.

Andrade entered a guilty plea to Count 1, the conspiracy charge, on December 17, 2010 under a plea agreement with the United States Attorney's Office.

United States Attorney Gonzales said, "Gang activity is a scourge in our great state that cannot and will not be tolerated under any circumstances. This case is an example of the meticulous, yet relentless gang enforcement strategies employed by the DEA and its law enforcement partners, with my Office's full support. In addition to long-term gang investigations like this one, my Office and its law enforcement partners will continue to aggressively tackle gang-related crime through a variety of law enforcement strategies, including targeting the most violent gang offenders from throughout New Mexico."

To date, the following nine other defendants have entered guilty pleas and have been sentenced in this case:

- **Sergio Hernandez**, 23, pled guilty to Count 1, the conspiracy charge, on December 9, 2010, and was sentenced to five-years' imprisonment to be followed by five-years of supervised release on April 19, 2011.
- **Margarito Andrade, Sr.**, 58, pled guilty to Count 1, the conspiracy charge, on December 17, 2010, and was sentenced to 10-years' imprisonment to be followed by five-years of supervised release on April 7, 2011.
- **Francisco Solis**, 24, pled guilty to Count 1, the conspiracy charge, on December 9, 2010, and was sentenced to five-years' imprisonment to be followed by five-years of supervised release on April 19, 2011.
- **Guadalupe Andrade**, 36, pled guilty to Count 23, using a telephone to facilitate the drug trafficking conspiracy, on January 10, 2011, and was sentenced to two-years' probation on April 21, 2011.

- **Tara Trujillo**, 26, pled guilty to Count 22, using a telephone to facilitate the drug trafficking conspiracy, on December 17, 2010, and was sentenced to two-years' probation on April 21, 2011.
- **Guillermo Andrade**, 31, pled guilty to Count 21, using a telephone to facilitate the drug trafficking conspiracy, on August 23, 2010, and was sentenced to 19-months' imprisonment to be followed by one-year of supervised release on March 24, 2011.
- **Luis Carlos Ruiz-Torres**, 33, pled guilty to Count 21, using a telephone to facilitate the drug trafficking conspiracy, on January 7, 2011, and was sentenced to 48-months' imprisonment to be followed by one-year of supervised release on April 21, 2011.
- **Jose Andrade**, 33, pled guilty to Count 29, using a telephone to facilitate the drug trafficking conspiracy, on July 26, 2010, and was sentenced to 326-days' imprisonment or time-served to be followed by one-year of supervised release on February 24, 2011.
- **Cesar Andrade**, 33, pled guilty to Count 30, using a telephone to facilitate the drug trafficking conspiracy, on December 17, 2010, and was sentenced to 48-months' imprisonment or time-served to be followed by one-year of supervised release on April 19, 2011.

Other defendants have entered guilty pleas and are awaiting their sentencing hearings.

Two defendants, **Luis Valles** and **Royce Garcia**, fled from law enforcement in March 2010, and remain federal fugitives to this day. The United States Marshal's Service is actively pursuing these fugitives.

The case was investigated by the DEA with assistance from the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Reeve L. Swainston.

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