

For Immediate Release  
May 12, 2011

**CALIFORNIA TRUCK-DRIVER RECEIVES 78-MONTH PRISON SENTENCE  
FOR FEDERAL MARIJUANA TRAFFICKING CONVICTION**

***More than 500 Pounds of Marijuana Concealed in False  
Compartment of Defendant's Tractor-Trailer***

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning, a United States District Judge sentenced **Sergio Javier Rodriguez**, 41, of San Bernardino, California, to a 78-month term of imprisonment to be followed by four-years of supervised release for his conviction on a marijuana trafficking offense. United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that a federal jury found Rodriguez guilty of possession of marijuana with intent to distribute on February 10, 2011 after a four-day trial.

Rodriguez was arrested on March 12, 2010 at the New Mexico Motor Transportation Police Division's (NMMTPD) Gallup Port of Entry on Interstate 40 after NMMTPD officers found more than 500 pounds of marijuana concealed in the tractor-trailer that Rodriguez was driving. The trial testimony established that, on that day, NMMTPD officers decided to inspect Rodriguez's tractor-trailer after a review of Rodriguez's log book revealed several discrepancies. The inspection revealed that Rodriguez was transporting rolls of fabric destined for North Carolina. After noting unusual scuff marks on the rear wall of the trailer, new rivets on the front wall, and observing that the outside of the trailer was 53 feet in length but the inside of the trailer only measured 51.5 feet, NMMTPD officers found that the trailer had a false compartment that contained U-Haul boxes that did not appear on the bill of lading. The boxes contained approximately 548.5 pounds of marijuana.

This case was investigated by the NMMTPD with assistance from the Drug Enforcement Administration, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Samuel A. Hurtado

and Damon P. Martinez.

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