

For Immediate Release  
May 19, 2011

**ARIZONA MAN SENTENCED TO 46-MONTHS IN PRISON FOR  
METHAMPHETAMINE AND COCAINE TRAFFICKING CONVICTION**

LAS CRUCES – On May 18, 2011 in federal court in Las Cruces, **Ricardo Orozco**, 20, of Mesa, Arizona, was sentenced to 46-months in prison for his conviction on methamphetamine and cocaine trafficking offenses. Orozco will be on supervised release for three years after he completes his prison sentence.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that the charges against Orozco arose from a traffic stop in Sierra County, New Mexico on March 25, 2010 during which a Sierra County Sheriff's deputy found four pounds of methamphetamine in the car Orozco was driving. Court records reflect that the deputy stopped Orozco on Interstate 25 near Truth or Consequences, New Mexico for speeding. Based on Orozco's nervous behavior, while the deputy was issuing a traffic citation to Orozco, another deputy had a drug detecting canine inspect the exterior of Orozco's car. After the canine detected the presence of narcotics, the deputies found a hidden compartment containing four pounds of methamphetamine, and arrested Orozco and his passenger.

Orozco initially was indicted on methamphetamine trafficking charges on June 17, 2010. Thereafter, a four-count superseding indictment was filed on November 18, 2010 charging Orozco with (i) conspiracy to possess methamphetamine with intent to distribute; (ii) possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute; (iii) conspiracy to possess cocaine with intent to distribute; and (iv) possession of cocaine with intent to distribute.

Orozco entered a guilty plea to all four counts of the superseding indictment on February 9, 2011. In his plea agreement, Orozco admitted that he conspired with others to transport

cocaine from Mesa, Arizona to Socorro, New Mexico on February 18, 2010. Orozco further admitted that, on March 25, 2010, he conspired with others to transport methamphetamine from Mesa, Arizona to Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. Orozco, who was on conditions of release following his arrest on March 25, 2010, was remanded into federal custody after entering his guilty plea.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Pecos Valley Drug Task Force, and the Sierra County Sheriff's Department, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Michael Nammar and Maria Y. Armijo.

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