

For Immediate Release
June 28, 2011

**ODESSA, TEXAS MAN CONVICTED OF FEDERAL
COCAINE TRAFFICKING CHARGES**

LAS CRUCES – Today a federal jury sitting in Las Cruces convicted **Iglacer Hernandez**, 47, of conspiracy and distribution of cocaine charges after a two-day trial. Hernandez, a resident of Odessa, Texas, who was released on a \$5,000 unsecured bond after his arrest on October 8, 2010, was remanded to custody pending his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled. The maximum penalty for each of these offenses is 20 years in prison, at least three years of supervised release, and a \$1,000,000 fine.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Hernandez and his co-defendants, **Jacob Fragoso**, 28, of Fort Stockton, Texas, and **Arturo Navarette**, 29, of Odessa, Texas, were charged with trafficking cocaine in Jal, New Mexico in 2007 in a four-count indictment filed on July 22, 2010. Count 1 charged Fragoso with distributing cocaine in January 2007; Count 2 charged all three defendants with conspiracy to distribute cocaine; Count 3 charged all three defendants with distributing cocaine in March 2007; and Count 4 charged Navarette with distributing cocaine in April 2007.

The testimony at trial established that Hernandez, Fragoso and Navarette delivered 266 net grams of cocaine to an undercover agent at a residence in Jal, New Mexico in exchange for \$7,000. When the undercover agent arrived at the residence, Hernandez unlocked the padlock of the garage where the transaction took place, closed the doors behind the undercover officer's truck to conceal the transaction, and opened the passenger-side door to facilitate the exchange. After Navarette handed the undercover agent eight one-ounce bags of cocaine, Hernandez watched the agent weigh the drugs on a scale on the center console of the truck.

The jury deliberated 30 minutes before returning a guilty verdict.

Fragoso was arrested in Midland, Texas on February 16, 2011, and entered guilty pleas to Counts 1, 2 and 3 of the indictment under a plea agreement with the United States Attorney's Office on June 23, 2011. Fragoso faces a maximum penalty of 20-years' imprisonment, a \$1,000,000 fine, and at least three years of supervised release. Fragoso remains on conditions of release pending his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be set.

Navarette has yet to be arrested and is considered a fugitive. Charges in indictments are only accusations, and Navarette is presumed innocent unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Otero County Narcotic Enforcement Unit, the Lea County Drug Task Force and the New Mexico State Police, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Jacob A. Wishard and Amanda L. Gould.

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