

For Immediate Release  
October 21, 2011

**MEXICAN NATIONAL FACES MINIMUM 20 YEAR PRISON SENTENCE AFTER  
PLEADING GUILTY TO FEDERAL HEROIN TRAFFICKING OFFENSE**

ALBUQUERQUE – On October 20, 2011, in Albuquerque federal court, **Jose Luis Alvarez-Narzagaray**, 28, pled guilty to a two count indictment charging him with (1) possession of more than one kilogram of heroin with intent to distribute, and (2) unlawful re-entry of a removed alien, under a plea agreement with the U.S. Attorney's Office. At sentencing, Alvarez-Narzagaray faces a prison term of not less than 20 years and not more than life.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Alvarez-Narzagaray is a Mexican national, and was residing in Phoenix, Az., when he was arrested on June 1, 2010, outside of Grants, N.M. He has been in federal custody since his arrest and remains detained pending his sentencing hearing, which is scheduled for January 20, 2012. Alvarez-Narzagaray will be deported after he completes his prison sentence.

Alvarez-Narzagaray was charged with violating the federal narcotics laws on June 1, 2010, after a New Mexico State Police officer found five packages of heroin concealed in the frame of his vehicle during a traffic stop on Interstate 40, near Grants, New Mexico. An indictment filed on June 24, 2010, added the additional offense of unlawful re-entry by a previously removed alien.

During his plea hearing, Alvarez-Narzagaray admitted possessing approximately 3.44 kilograms of heroin with the intention of transporting the heroin from Phoenix, Az., to Albuquerque, N.M. Alvarez-Narzagaray further admitted that he is a Mexican citizen who was illegally present in the United States, and that he previously had been deported from the United

States in 2001 and 2005.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement and Administration and the New Mexico State Police, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Nicholas Jon Ganjei.

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