

For Immediate Release
October 28, 2011

**SEX OFFENDER SENTENCED TO 41 MONTHS FOR FAILING
TO UPDATE SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION**

LAS CRUCES – Yesterday afternoon in federal court in Las Cruces, **Robert Walter Forster**, 68, of Hobbs, N.M., was sentenced to 41 months of imprisonment for failure to update his sex offender registration. Forster will serve a five-year term of supervised release after he completes his prison sentence.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that a federal jury found Forster guilty of failing to comply with the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) on May 17, 2011. SORNA, also known as the Adam Walsh Protection and Safety Act, requires that a convicted sex offender register in each jurisdiction where the offender resides, where the offender is employed, and/or where the offender is a student, and that the sex offender maintain current registrations. Forster was convicted of violating 18 U.S.C. § 2250(a), which makes it a crime for a person who is required to register under the SORNA to fail to update their registration after traveling in interstate or foreign commerce.

The evidence at trial established that Forster was required to register under SORNA because of a conviction in 2000 for a sex offense in Ohio. In 2009, Forster registered his address in Mesquite, N.M., with the Doña Ana County Sheriff's Office. Forster failed to update his registration when he moved from the Mesquite address in March 2010. In April 2010, Forster traveled to the Philippines and stayed there for several weeks before returning to the United States. A few months later, Forster again traveled to the Philippines and remained there until approximately December 2010, when he returned to Doña Ana County. Forster never updated his registration to reflect that his address had changed or that he had been living in the

Philippines and elsewhere.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Marshal's Service and the Doña Ana County Sheriff's Office, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Stephen H. Wong and Ravi Sinha.

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