

For Immediate Release
November 1, 2011

**CALIFORNIA MAN SENTENCED TO 188 MONTHS FOR
FEDERAL METHAMPHETAMINE CONVICTION**

ALBUQUERQUE – U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales announced that, earlier today in Albuquerque federal court, **Raul Rincon, Jr.**, 35, of Madera, CA, was sentenced to 188 months imprisonment for his methamphetamine trafficking conviction. Rincon will be on supervised release for five years after completing his prison sentence.

Court records reflect that Rincon was arrested at a fast food restaurant in Santa Fe, N.M., on local charges by the Santa Fe Police Department on October 9, 2010. An officer went to the restaurant after receiving a call requesting assistance in removing a man who had been drinking beer on a commercial bus traveling from El Paso, Tex., to Denver, Co. After learning that he would not be permitted to remain on the bus for the remainder of the trip and retrieving his personal belongings, Rincon asked the officer if he knew of other buses bound for Denver. The officer told Rincon that there was another bus stop in the vicinity and offered to drive him there, and Rincon accepted. Before letting Rincon into his police cruiser, the officer searched Rincon for weapons. While checking his ankle area for weapons, the officer felt a large box shaped package. After Rincon admitted that the box contained methamphetamine, the officer retrieved four packages that were wrapped in black electrical tape and strapped to Rincon's ankles. Subsequent laboratory analysis revealed that the boxes contained more than 913.4 grams of actual methamphetamine.

On November 1, 2010, Rincon was arrested on federal narcotics charges, and has been in federal custody since that time. Rincon was indicted on December 1, 2010 and charged with possession of more than 500 grams of methamphetamine with intent to distribute. On June 9,

2011, Rincon pled guilty to the indictment. In entering his guilty plea, Rincon admitted that he was paid \$1000 and his travel expenses to transport the methamphetamine.

The case was investigated by the Santa Fe Police Department and the U.S. Border Patrol, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Holland S. Kastrin and Shammara Henderson.

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