



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

John E. Murphy, Acting U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FEDERAL PRISON SENTENCES HANDED DOWN TO MEMBERS OF
EL PASO-BASED DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION**

John E. Murphy, Acting U.S. Attorney, announced that in El Paso today, 39-year-old Juan Reyes was sentenced to ten years in prison for his role in an El Paso-based drug trafficking organization. Reyes was the last of nine defendants to be sentenced in connection with this investigation.

Yesterday, 26-year-old Michael Angelo Arellano, the organization's ringleader, was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison followed by 10 years of supervised release and fined \$5,000. Other defendants in this case include: 28-year-old Wesley Ryan Grady, 21-year-old Nancy Navarro, 27-year-old Veronica Castaneda, 25-year-old Lenaya Gutierrez, 32-year-old Karla Gutierrez, 53-year-old Juan Manuel Najera and 23-year-old Anna Guadalupe Tovar. In all, prison sentences handed down in this case ranged from six months to 15 years.

According to court records, between January 2008 and May 15, 2009, Arellano's organization was responsible for the distribution of more than 2,000 pounds of marijuana from El Paso to Big Spring, TX; Oklahoma City, OK; and, Memphis, TN.

This case was investigated by agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement together with local and state authorities. This case was prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorney Antonio Franco.

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