



**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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EL PASO MAN SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON ON DRUG CHARGES

John E. Murphy, Acting U.S. Attorney, announced that in El Paso today, 49-year-old Ruben Ceballos was sentenced to five years in prison on federal drug charges.

In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge David Briones ordered that Ceballos pay a \$2,000 fine and be placed on supervised release for a period of four years after completing his prison term. Judge Briones also ordered that Ceballos forfeit to the Government \$72,990 in currency.

On August 13, 2009, Ceballos pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute marijuana and one count of possession with intent to distribute marijuana. By pleading guilty, Ceballos admitted that between March 25, 2009 and April 3, 2009, he and others conspired to distribute more than 100 kilograms of marijuana. On April 2, 2009, agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested Ceballos after he purchased 325 pounds of marijuana from an undercover agent for \$72,990.

This case was prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorney George Leal.

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