



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

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August 10, 2009

FIVE ARRESTED IN EAGLE PASS AND DEL RIO ON FEDERAL FIREARMS CHARGES

John E. Murphy, Acting U.S. Attorney, ATF Special Agent in Charge Dewey Webb (Houston Division) and ICE Special Agent in Charge Jerry Robinette (San Antonio Division) announced that today in Eagle Pass and Del Rio, Texas, federal authorities arrested five individuals charged by indictment with conspiracy to make false statements in connection with the acquisition of firearms from a federally licensed firearms dealer.

Those arrested are: 38-year-old Jesus Cedillo, 37-year-old Eduardo Rene Rodriguez, 36-year-old Julian Elizondo, 25-year-old Victor Perez, Jr., and 28-year-old Seth Carreon. An arrest warrant has been issued for a sixth defendant in this case, 24-year-old Ivan Gonzalez-Romos.

The indictment alleges that between June 2008 and March 2009, the defendants conspired to purchase multiple rifles and handguns under false pretenses. According to the indictment, Gonzalez-Romos, assisted by Cedillo, hired Rodriguez, Perez, and Carreon to purchase selected firearms with money provided by Gonzalez-Romos. The indictment charges that Rodriguez also hired Elizondo to purchase firearms for Gonzalez-Romos. During each purchase, Rodriguez, Elizondo, Perez, and Carreon lied about the identity of the true purchaser—Gonzalez-Romos—on the firearms transaction record—ATF Form 4473. According to the indictment, Gonzalez-Romos paid his co-defendants for each firearm purchased.

In addition to the conspiracy charge, Rodriguez, Perez, Carreon, and Elizondo also face substantive charges for making false statements in connection with the acquisition of firearms. Upon conviction, the defendants face up to five years in federal prison on each count.

This case was investigated by agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives together with agents from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Assistant United States Attorney Benjamin D. Seal is prosecuting this case on behalf of the government.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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