



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
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SIX ARRESTED BASED ON FEDERAL DRUG INDICTMENT RETURNED IN EL PASO

John E. Murphy, Acting United States Attorney, Special Agent in Charge Manuel Oyola-Torres of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Investigations in El Paso and Special Agent in Charge Joseph M. Arabit of the Drug Enforcement Administration--El Paso Field Division announced today that federal, state and local authorities have arrested six individuals after a federal grand jury this week charged them with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute over 1,000 kilograms of marijuana.

The defendants arrested in El Paso include: Norberto Roldan, Sr., age 51, of El Paso; Roberto Talavera, age 40, of San Elizario, TX; Jesus Hernandez, age 26, of El Paso; and, Patricia Chavez De Jaime, age 50, of Horizon City, TX. Yesterday, federal authorities in Dallas arrested Anareal Chavira, age 37, of Princeton, Texas, and federal authorities in Phoenix, Arizona, arrested Jessie Mesa, age 31, of El Paso.

In addition to the conspiracy count, Roldan is charged with seven counts of possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance and one count of attempted possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance. Talavera is also charged with two counts of possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance. The remaining defendants are charged with one count of possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance.

The 10-count indictment alleges that defendants conspired between January 2005 and August 2009 to possess with intent to distribute more than 1,000 kilograms of marijuana.

Upon conviction of the conspiracy charge, the defendants face between 10 years and life in federal prison.

This case resulted from a joint investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Drug Enforcement Administration together with state and local authorities.

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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