



**U.S. Department of Justice**

**Carlie Christensen**

**United States Attorney  
District of Utah**

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**July 27, 2011**

**CONTACT: MELODIE RYDALCH**  
**801-325-3206**  
**801-243-6475 (CELL)**

**NEWS RELEASE**  
***GRAND JURY RETURNS INDICTMENT CHARGING***  
***21 INDIVIDUALS IN CONNECTION WITH***  
***WASHINGTON COUNTY MARIJUANA GROW***

SALT LAKE CITY – A federal grand jury returned a three-count indictment Wednesday afternoon charging 21 individuals with conspiracy to manufacture a controlled substance by cultivation, manufacture of a controlled substance by cultivation, and possession of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime. Today’s charges follow a significant investigation of a large cultivation site in Washington County.

The cultivation site was raided July 16, 2011, following a coordinated law enforcement effort by federal, state, and local police officers, deputy sheriffs, and agents. DEA is leading the investigation, which is ongoing. Law enforcement officers say more than 13,000 plants were removed from the cultivation site.

Charged in the indictment are Jose Guadalupe Alanis-Botello, age 20; Jose Luis Arreola-Villa, age 41; Constantino Cervantes-Lopez, age 28; Antonio Garcia-Huitron, age 24; Juan Gonzalez-Olvera, age 28; Jose Guadarrama-Osorio, age 22; Lucas Guadarrama-Osorio, age 18; Guadalupe Linares-Cervantes, age 30; Jose Martinez-Sandoval, age 42; Jose Santos Martinez-Sandoval, age 37; Natividad Martinez-Sandoval, age 30; Armando

Mata-Chavez, age 23; Rigoberto Maulion-Arreola, age 30; Huber Melchor-Cabrera, age 28; Sergio Perez-Serrato, age 21; Raul Ramirez-Aguilar, age 19; Oscar Leobardo Rodriguez-Ayala, age 26; Israel Sallavedra-Pulido, age 29; Salvador Valenzuela-Arias, age 38; Isidro Vargas-Tellez, age 43; and Eugenio Villa-Lopez, age 43. With the exception of Arreola-Villa, all of the defendants are citizens of Mexico.

The defendants are in custody. They are scheduled to be arraigned Monday in Salt Lake City at 1:30 p.m. in U.S. Magistrate Judge Brooke Wells' courtroom.

The potential maximum penalty for the drug counts is life in prison with a 10-year mandatory minimum sentence. The firearm count carries a mandatory five-year sentence, which would run consecutively to any other sentence imposed.

Indictments are not findings of guilt. Defendants charged in indictments are presumed innocent unless or until proven guilty in court.

###