



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of the Virgin Islands*

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MARIO AYALA GUILTY OF THREE GUN CHARGES**

United States Attorney Anthony J. Jenkins announced today that on May 22, 2008, after a three-day trial, a district court jury on St. Croix found 26-year-old Mario Ayala guilty of possessing a firearm and ammunition in the Campo Rico area. Specifically, Ayala was convicted of being a felon in possession of a firearm, a felon in possession of ammunition, and of unauthorized possession of a firearm.

Ayala faces a minimum mandatory sentence of 15 years imprisonment on the unauthorized possession of a firearm conviction. The maximum statutory penalty for the conviction of being a felon in possession of a firearm, and for being a felon in possession of ammunition is 10 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

Ayala's sentencing is scheduled for September 25, 2008.

U.S. Attorney Jenkins commended the joint efforts between the Virgin Islands Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, which resulted in the investigation and prosecution of this case.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Allan John-Baptiste prosecuted the case.