



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney Eastern District of Arkansas

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TWO FEDERAL PRISONERS INDICTED FOR POSSESSION OF WEAPONS

LITTLE ROCK – Jane W. Duke, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, and Timothy C. Outlaw, Warden of the Federal Correctional Complex in Forrest City, Arkansas, announced today the indictment of two federal prisoners for possessing weapons in the facility. Jody Clesi, age 32, and Marco Sanchez, age 27, both currently incarcerated in the Forrest City institution, were charged in separate, single-count indictments alleging that each possessed a weapon, or an object intended or designed to be used as a weapon.

Under federal law, it is a crime for an inmate of a federal prison to possess, make, or obtain a "prohibited object." Prohibited objects include controlled substances, United States or foreign currency, firearms and other weapons, and any object designed or intended to be used as a weapon. Prisoners also cannot possess "any other object that threatens the order, discipline, or security of a prison, or the life, health or safety of an individual." The law applies not only to inmates in federal prison, but also to inmates who are held in facilities pursuant to a contract or agreement with the federal government. The same law can also be used to prosecute any person who provides the prohibited object to the inmate.

Duke stated, "Every day thousands of BOP employees are hard at work protecting this country by running safe, secure, and humane facilities. They are unsung heroes because the work they perform is rarely celebrated and, in fact, often unfairly criticized. But make no mistake about it, the correctional officers and other employees at FCC Forrest City are vital partners in ensuring the safety of our communities. In turn, our office is committed to doing all we can to promote their safety and well-being while performing these duties." Duke added, "We want to send a clear message to federal inmates that they will be prosecuted for possessing weapons and other contraband and that we will seek consecutive prison time if they are convicted."

The range of punishment for possession of contraband in a federal correctional facility varies from 6 months to 20 years, depending on the type of prohibited object the prisoner possessed. Both Sanchez and Clesi face up to 5 years imprisonment and up to a \$250,000 fine. A conviction would delay both men's projected release dates, which for Sanchez is currently scheduled for December 2009.

The investigation in each case was conducted by correctional officers and investigators with the Federal Correctional Complex in Forrest City. The cases are being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michael Gordon.

An indictment contains only allegations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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