

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Laura E. Duffy***

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***For Immediate Release***

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY** - January 3, 2011

United States Attorney Laura E. Duffy announced that Rigoberto Yanez, alleged to be a high-ranking member of the Arellano-Felix criminal organization (AFO), was arraigned on December 23, 2010 in U.S. District Court in San Diego before United States Magistrate Judge Barbara L. Major. Yanez was extradited on Saturday, December 11, 2010 from Mexico to the United States to face racketeering, drug conspiracy, and money laundering charges contained in a December 2003 superseding indictment. The defendant is next scheduled to be in court on January 11, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. for a detention hearing before Magistrate Judge Barbara L. Major.

The superseding indictment charges that Yanez acted as the AFO's primary representative in Mexico City, Mexico and served as the initial point of contact for Colombian traffickers wishing to do business with the AFO. The superseding indictment further alleges that Yanez transmitted money to Colombian drug traffickers and supervised the receipt of drug shipments that arrived outside of the Baja California, Mexico area, as well as the transportation of those drugs to the Tijuana and/or Mexicali areas. Court documents also

allege that Yanez had primary responsibility for the kidnaping and murder of AFO “enemies” in Mexico City, Mexico.

A motion hearing is scheduled for January 31, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. before District Judge Larry A. Burns. The defendant is currently in custody.

**DEFENDANT**

**Case Number 97CR2520-LAB**

Rigoberto Yanez

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1962(c) (Conducting the Affairs of an Enterprise through a Pattern of Racketeering Activity) (maximum 20 years in prison and \$250,000 fine)

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1962(d) (Conspiracy to Conduct the Affairs of an Enterprise through a Pattern of Racketeering Activity) (maximum 20 years in prison and \$250,000 fine)

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 952(a), 960, and 963 (Conspiracy to Import Controlled Substances) (mandatory minimum 5 years in prison, maximum 40 years in prison, and \$2 million fine)

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846 (Conspiracy to Distribute Controlled Substances) (mandatory minimum 5 years in prison, maximum 40 years in prison, and \$2 million fine)

Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1956(h) (Conspiracy to Launder Monetary Instruments) (maximum 20 years in prison and \$500,000 fine)

**INVESTIGATING AGENCIES**

Drug Enforcement Administration  
Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
California Department of Justice

**An indictment is not evidence that the defendant committed the crimes charged. The defendant is presumed innocent until the United States meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.**