

NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - March 3, 2011

United States Attorney Laura E. Duffy announced that Severiano Rodriguez-Quinones was sentenced today to serve 144 months in prison, following his guilty plea to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. United States District Judge Marilyn L. Huff also ordered Rodriguez to serve three years of supervised release after his release from prison.

According to court records, Rodriguez was arrested on January 4, 2006, after entering the United States from Mexico with approximately 2.7 kilograms of methamphetamine hidden in his vehicle. Court documents indicated that Rodriguez transported drugs and drug proceeds for a drug-trafficking organization that operated in south San Diego County and Baja California, Mexico. The organization used multiple juveniles in furtherance of the illegal activity, including four minors found in Rodriguez's vehicle at the time of his arrest. Judge Huff enhanced Rodriguez' sentence calculations for using minors in furtherance of the illegal activity, based in part on evidence that Rodriguez brought the minors to distract inspectors at the border.

Rodriguez is the tenth defendant to be sentenced in the larger investigation, which resulted in the seizure of over 150 pounds of methamphetamine, more than \$160,000 in United States currency, and multiple firearms. Other defendants in the case have received sentences ranging from 352 months to 63 months of imprisonment. Five defendants remain to be sentenced, including the group's alleged supplier from Mexico, Jesus Alberto Bastidas.

DEFENDANT

Case Number: 06CR590-H

Severiano Rodriguez-Quinones

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 21, United States Code, Section 846, 841 (Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine)

AGENCIES

Drug Enforcement Administration
National City Police Department
Chula Vista Police Department