

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - March 18, 2011

United States Attorney Laura E. Duffy announced that today United States District Court Judge Barry Ted Moskowitz sentenced Alberto Violante in federal court in San Diego by to serve 141 months in custody, based on his convictions for conspiracy to conduct enterprise affairs through a pattern of racketeering activity, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1962(d), and brandishing a firearm during a crime of violence, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(A)(ii). Violante tendered his guilty pleas in September 2010.

According to court documents, Violante admitted that he distributed drugs and engaged in acts of violence with associates. On one occasion, Violante took part in an assault on a drug dealer who owed money to his group. Violante ensured that the drug dealer would not escape by pointing a gun at the dealer while his associates assaulted the dealer with baseball bats. Court documents also indicate Violante and his associates helped coordinate criminal activities between the Mexican Mafia (or "La Eme") and the Arellano-Felix Organization (or "AFO") syndicate.

Violante was prosecuted as part of “Operation Keys to the City,” a year-long investigation conducted by the multi-agency San Diego Violent Crimes Task Force-Gang Group that targeted the criminal activities of the Mexican Mafia, or La Eme, Hispanic street gangs with ties to the Mexican Mafia, and a United States-based affiliate of the Arellano-Felix Organization.

United States Attorney Duffy praised the coordinated effort of the several law enforcement groups led by the Violent Crimes Task Force-Gang Group and the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force ("OCDETF") for the coordinated team effort culminating in the sentences in these cases.

DEFENDANT

Case Number: 08CR4406-BTM

Alberto Violante

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Conspiracy to Conduct Enterprise Affairs Through a Pattern of Racketeering Activity – Title 18, United States Code, Section 1962(d)

Brandishing a Firearm During a Crime of Violence – Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)

AGENCIES

Federal Bureau of Investigation
San Diego Police Department
San Diego County Sheriff’s Department
National City Police Department
San Diego County District Attorney’s Office
U.S. Bureau of Prisons
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
San Diego County Probation Department
Immigration and Customs Enforcement