

NEWS RELEASE



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 - April 22, 2011

United States Attorney Laura E. Duffy announced the unsealing of a five-count indictment charging ten individuals with narcotics and federal firearms violations, and money laundering. A federal grand jury sitting in San Diego handed up the indictment on April 11, 2011, which was unsealed today.

According to Count 1 of the indictment, Luis Earnest Morquecho, Eduardo Resendiz Ortiz, David Covarrubias Alvares, Ryan Neal Miller, Michael Ronn Robles, Martin Rodriguez, Hector Escalera Cordova, Tsitiporn Morquecho, and Michael Valentine Longnecker are charged with conspiracy to distribute five kilograms and more of cocaine.

Luis Earnest Morquecho and Charles Frank Fuller are charged in Count 2 of the indictment with illegally transporting and importing firearms from the state of Arizona into the state of California, specifically two AR-15 assault rifles, one AK-47-style assault rifle, and one 9mm pistol. The weapons were then sold to undercover agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration in San Diego.

In Count 3 of the indictment, Luis Earnest Morquecho is charged with being a felon in possession of firearms; specifically, Morquecho is charged with possessing two AR-15 assault rifles, one AK-47-style

assault rifle, a 9mm pistol, and a .22 caliber pistol equipped with a screw-in silencer. Morquecho was previously convicted of possession of marijuana for sale in San Diego County.

In Count 4 of the indictment, David Covarrubias Alvarez is charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm; specifically, Alvarez is charged with possessing one .38 caliber revolver. Alvarez was previously convicted of assault with a deadly weapon, not a firearm, with gross bodily injury likely, in San Diego County.

The indictment further alleges that Luis Earnest Morquecho purchased a black 2009 Cadillac Escalade with funds derived from unlawful activity; specifically, that Morquecho purchased the Cadillac with at least \$19,000 in cash derived from the distribution of cocaine.

Finally, the indictment contains forfeiture allegations that would result in the forfeiture to the United States, upon conviction, of the firearms, the Cadillac, and any other assets obtained, directly or indirectly, through proceeds derived from the cocaine conspiracy.

The charges stem from an investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

The defendants were arraigned on the charges this afternoon before Magistrate Judge Mitchell D. Dembin and are next scheduled to be in court on April 26, 2011, at 3:00 p.m.

DEFENDANTS

Case Number: 11cr1495AJB

Luis Earnest Morquecho
Charles Frank Fuller
Eduardo Resendiz Ortiz
Daniel Covarrubias Alvarez
Ryan Neal Miller
Michael Ronn Robles
Martin Rodriguez
Hector Escalera Cordova
Tsitiporn Morquecho
Michael Valentine Longnecker

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846 - Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine
(As to all defendants except Fuller)

Maximum Penalties: Life in Prison, with mandatory minimum of 10 years in prison; \$4,000,000 fine;
5 years supervised release.

Title 18, United States Code, Section 371 and 922(a)(3) and 924 (a)(1)(D) - Conspiracy to Illegally Transport
and Import Firearms (As to defendants Fuller and Luis Earnest Morquecho)

Maximum Penalties: Up to 5 years in prison; \$250,000 fine; 3 years of supervised release.

Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1) and 924(1)(2) - Felon in Possession of a Firearm

Maximum Penalties: 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. (As to defendants: Luis Earnest Morquecho and
David Covarrubias Alvarez)

Maximum Penalties: Up to 10 years in prison; \$250,000 fine; 3 years of supervised release.

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1957(a) - Money Laundering Over \$10,000 (As to defendant Luis
Earnest Morquecho)

Maximum Penalties: Up to 10 years in prison; \$250,000 fine; 3 years of supervised release.

Criminal Forfeiture

AGENCIES

Drug Enforcement Administration
Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Naval Criminal Investigative Service
Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation
San Diego Police Department

An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.