

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 - August 18, 2011

United States Attorney Laura E. Duffy announced today the unsealing of four indictments charging nine individuals with violations of federal narcotics and weapons trafficking statutes and the unlawful possession of various firearms and explosives. One of the nine indicted defendants, Nofel Noel Suleyman, was also charged with engaging in a continuing criminal enterprise, which carries a mandatory-minimum penalty of twenty years in prison. In addition to the indictments, five defendants were previously charged in a complaint with conspiring to possess nearly 1,000 pounds of marijuana as part of this joint investigation.

According to court documents, the majority of defendants face drug conspiracy and distribution charges, as well as the unlawful sale of firearms. Defendant Suleyman is also charged with the unlawful possession of a destructive device, specifically a pipe bomb containing nails and designed for use as a weapon. The charges carry five- and ten-year mandatory-minimum terms of imprisonment for the drug distribution and conspiracy counts and, as indicated above, a twenty-year mandatory-minimum for the engaging in a continuing criminal enterprise charge.

The indictments are the culmination of a six-month investigation into narcotics and weapons trafficking

in El Cajon and surrounding areas. The investigation utilized the joint resources of the Drug Enforcement Administration and the El Cajon Police Department, as well as other federal and state law enforcement agencies. A number of defendants were also arrested on state charges and will be prosecuted by the San Diego District Attorney's Office.

U.S. Attorney Duffy credited the joint efforts of federal and state law enforcement in achieving the goals of the investigation and having a positive impact in the community. U.S. Attorney Duffy said, "This operation highlights the excellent work by agents on both the state and federal levels in combating violence and drug trafficking in our neighborhoods. Our law enforcement community speaks with one voice in our commitment to investigate and prosecute dangerous offenders, throughout San Diego."

DEFENDANTS

Case Number: 11cr3590-BEN

Nofel Noel Suleyman
Karar Alekabi
Alen Walid Jalu
Christopher Ball
Gordon Ralph Waits

DEFENDANTS

Case Number: 11cr3585-BEN

Akil Al-Saedy

DEFENDANTS

Case Number: 11cr3589-JLS

Faris Oraha
Hajar Haji

DEFENDANTS

Case Number: 11cr3586-L

Jose Valerio-Vasquez

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Engaging in a Continuing Criminal Enterprise – Title 21, United States Code, Sections 848(a)
Maximum penalty: Life imprisonment and \$2,000,000 fine

Conspiracy to Distribute Controlled Substances – Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846
Maximum penalty: Life imprisonment and \$4,000,000 fine

Distribution of Controlled Substances – Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1)

Maximum penalty: Life imprisonment and \$4,000,000 fine

Felon in Possession of a Firearm – Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(g) and 924(a)(2)

Maximum penalty: 10 years' imprisonment and \$250,000 fine

Unlawful Possession of Firearm/Destructive Device – Title 26, United States Code, Section 5861(d)

Maximum penalty: 10 years' imprisonment and \$10,000 fine

Criminal Forfeiture – Title 21, United States Code, Section 853

Maximum penalty: Forfeiture of proceeds

INVESTIGATING AGENCIES

Drug Enforcement Administration - Mobile Enforcement Team

United States Border Patrol

El Cajon 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.