

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

Leader of Meth Ring Tied to the El Cajon Hoodlums Gang Sentenced to 14 Years

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - September 16, 2011

United States Attorney Laura E. Duffy announced that Luis Carlos Barragan, aka "Tiny," was sentenced today to serve 168 months in federal prison by United States District Judge Barry Ted Moskowitz. Barragan pleaded guilty on February 1, 2011, to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

According to court documents, Barragan headed a methamphetamine distribution ring that extended throughout San Diego County, including El Cajon, Spring Valley, Santee, and National City. Several members of the methamphetamine conspiracy were also members of the El Cajon Hoodlums street gang, including Barragan's right-hand man, Alexander Espinoza, who was the founder of the El Cajon Hoodlums.

This case is part of a year-long investigation known as "Operation Eclipse" by the East County Regional Gang Task Force. This Operation focused on long-term methamphetamine distribution rings operating in east San Diego County. The East County Regional Gang Task Force is charged with protecting the public from the criminal and violent acts of street gangs in the East County area. The task force is composed of the FBI, the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, the San Diego District Attorney's Office,

the San Diego Probation Department, the Department of Corrections-State Parole, the El Cajon Police Department, the La Mesa Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations.

DEFENDANTS

Case Number: 10CR4247-BTM

Luis Carlos Barragan	168 Months
Alexander Roberto Espinoza	Sentencing Hearing 9/30/2011
Joel Baeza	51 Months
Sherry June Angel	42 Months
Miguel Angel Ponce	78 Months
Jose Luis Garcia	132 Months
Jeftee Garcia	Sentencing Hearing 10/21/2011
Rex Jaena Dioso	40 Months
Robin Deann Miller	Sentencing Hearing 10/24/2011

Summary of Charges

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846 - Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine
Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1) - Possession of Methamphetamine With Intent To Distribute

Case Number: 10CR4248-BTM

Manuel Vera	Sentencing Hearing 11/18/2011
Jerry Lynn Dempsey	Sentencing Hearing 9/23/2011
Francisco David Valencia	Sentencing Hearing 10/28/2011

Summary of Charges

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846 - Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine

Case Number: 10CR3592-BTM

Daniel Valencia-Cabrera	Sentencing Hearing 9/30/2011
Fernando Arroyo Cervantes	70 Months
Eddgar Efrain Ceballos	Sentencing Hearing 9/30/2011
Juan Daniel Romero-Martinez	96 Months
Alicia Romo Withers aka Alicia Romo Marin	50 Months

Summary of Charges

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846 - Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine

Case Number: 10CR5094-IEG

Miguel Torres
aka Miguel Torres-Calvillo
aka Miguel Calbillo

87 Months

Summary of Charges

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) - Possession of Methamphetamine With Intent to Distribute

Case Number: 10CR4701-BTM

Simon Cervantes-Zurita
aka Simon Zurita-Cervantes
Martin David Bowman

Sentencing Hearing 10/28/2011
Sentencing Hearing 10/28/2011

Summary of Charges

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) - Possession of Methamphetamine With Intent to Distribute

AGENCIES

Federal Bureau of Investigation
San Diego County Sheriff's Department
San Diego County District Attorney's Office
San Diego County Probation Department
El Cajon Police Department
La Mesa Police Department
Department of Corrections—State Parole
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations
San Diego Police Department
U.S. Customs and Border Protection