

NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release

THANKSGIVING DAY TUNNEL DEFENDANTS SENTENCED

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - December 19, 2011

United States Attorney Laura E. Duffy announced that defendant Victor Omar Valladares-Real, who was charged with conspiracy to distribute approximately 27, 600 pounds of marijuana, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841 and 846, in connection with the narcotics tunnel found on November 25, 2010, on Thanksgiving day last year, was sentenced today by the Honorable Marilyn L. Huff, United States District Court Judge, for the Southern District of California, to serve 168 months in federal custody followed by five years of supervised release. According to court documents, defendant Valladares-Real pled guilty on June 23, 2011, without any plea agreement, to conspiracy to distribute approximately 27,600 pounds of marijuana.

Defendant Daniel Navarro-Chavez, who was also involved with the Thanksgiving Day Tunnel, was sentenced to 188 months in federal custody by the Honorable Larry A. Burns, United States District Court

Judge, on November 28, 2011. On June 7, 2011, defendant Navarro-Chavez pled guilty to conspiracy to distribute marijuana, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 and 841. At the sentencing hearing on November 28, 2011, defendant Navarro-Chavez admitted his involvement with the truckers, who were transporting bulk marijuana, stemming from the November 2, 2010 narcotics tunnel and November 25, 2010 narcotics tunnel.

According to court documents, defendants Valladares-Real and Navarro-Chavez, were observed by Homeland Security Investigation (HSI) Special Agents, at the warehouse, located at 10030 Marconi Drive, San Diego, California, on the morning of November 25, 2010, where a tractor-trailer was being loaded with approximately 27,600 pounds of marijuana. Defendant Valladares-Real escorted the tractor-trailer from the warehouse to Chula Vista, where the tractor-trailer was eventually provided to trucker Jose Hernandez, who was stopped at the Temecula Border Patrol Checkpoint, where agents found the marijuana. HSI Special Agents then executed a search warrant at 10030 Marconi Drive warehouse, where they found additional marijuana and a narcotics tunnel. HSI Special Agents also found receipts in the name of defendant Valladares-Real for equipment found in the Marconi warehouse, including pallet jacks and forklifts.

Hernandez, who pled guilty to conspiracy to distribute approximately 27,600 pounds of marijuana, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 and 841(a)(1), is scheduled for sentencing on February 27, 2012, before the Honorable Marilyn L. Huff, United States District Court.

DEFENDANTS

Victor Omar Valladares-Real	Case Number: 10CR05025	In Custody
Daniel Navarro-Chavez	Case Number: 11CR0741	In Custody
Jose Hernandez	Case Number: 10CR5025	In Custody

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

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

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations
Drug Enforcement Administration
U.S. Border Patrol