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**TWO MEN INDICTED IN SERIES OF ALLEGED ARMED ROBBERIES IN 2010**

CHICAGO — Two Chicago men are scheduled to be arraigned on Dec. 13 on federal charges relating to series of at least eight alleged armed robberies of retail stores and businesses in Chicago and Aurora in the fall of 2010. The defendants, **Juan Sanchez**, also known as “Cesar Sanchez,” and **Carlos Ochoa**, were charged in an 18-count indictment that was returned by a federal grand jury last month, Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; and Andrew L Traver, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives announced today.

Sanchez, 39, and Ochoa, 48, were each charged with conspiracy to commit interstate robbery, eight counts of robbery, eight counts of using a firearm during a crime of violence, and Sanchez alone was also charged with being a felon-in-possession of a firearm. They are scheduled to appear at 10 a.m. on Dec. 13 before U.S. District Judge Charles Norgle in Federal Court.

Both men were arrested in November 2010 and are in state custody while facing related state charges. The federal case was charged in cooperation with the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office. Sanchez and Ochoa each face a maximum sentence up to life in prison if convicted of one or more federal counts of using a firearm during a violent crime.

According to the indictment, Sanchez and Ochoa conspired to, and did, commit the following armed robberies, among unspecified others:

Oct. 5, 2010 — Freedom Wireless, a Cricket Wireless dealer, 5002 S. Archer, Chicago, taking approximately \$3,800 from an employee of Dollar Express at gunpoint;

Oct. 13, 2010 — Jazmin Flowers in Chicago, taking approximately \$100 from an employee at gunpoint;

Oct. 15, 2010 — Supermercado Rivera, a grocery store in Chicago, taking approximately \$100 from an employee at gunpoint;

Oct. 25, 2010 — La Lupita, a grocery store in Chicago, taking an unspecified amount of cash from an employee at gunpoint;

Oct. 27, 2010 — Casa Blanca, a grocery store in Aurora, taking an unspecified amount of cash from an employee at gunpoint;

Nov. 7, 2010 — World Communications, a Cricket Wireless dealer, 3605 N. Western Ave., taking an unspecified amount of cash and two cell phones from an employee at gunpoint;

Nov. 12, 2010 — New England Pharmacy in Chicago, taking an unspecified amount of cash from an employee at gunpoint; and

Nov. 17, 2010 — Cleartalk Communications LLC, a Cricket Wireless dealer, 5419 S. Kedzie Ave., Chicago, taking approximately \$200 from an employee at gunpoint.

The robbery conspiracy count and each count of armed robbery carry a maximum sentence of 20 years. The felon-in-possession of a firearm count against Sanchez alone carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. A first conviction for using a firearm during a violent crime carries a mandatory consecutive term of 5 years in prison and each subsequent conviction carries a mandatory consecutive sentence of 25 years in prison, with a maximum of any number of years up to life. If convicted, the Court must impose a reasonable sentence under federal sentencing statutes and the advisory United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The Government is being represented in court by Assistant U.S. Attorney Maribel Fernandez-Harvath and Ronald DeWald.

The public is reminded that an indictment contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt.  
The defendants are presumed innocent and are entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the  
burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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