



Department of Justice

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FEDERAL GRAND JURY INDICTS TWO IN CONNECTION WITH MARIJUANA GROW OPERATION

This afternoon, a federal grand jury in Austin returned an indictment charging two defendants in connection with an estimated 3,000-plant marijuana grow operation near Brenham, Texas, announced United States Attorney Robert Pitman and Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent in Charge Javier Pena.

The two-count indictment charges 38-year-old Honduran National Jose Evaristo Rivera and 27-year-old Mexican National Evertte Gonzalez with one count of conspiracy to manufacture over 1,000 marijuana plants and one substantive count of manufacturing marijuana plants. According to court documents, Rivera and Gonzalez were on-site caretakers for four marijuana fields located in an area around FM Highway 105 and Husemann Road. On July 19, 2012, DEA agents discovered the marijuana fields while conducting an Ariel operation. The following day, the agents along with local law enforcement authorities from Washington County and the Texas Department of Public Safety seized the marijuana and arrested the defendants.

Upon conviction, the defendants face between ten years and life in federal prison.

This ongoing investigation is being conducted by agents with the Drug Enforcement Administration. Assistant United States Attorney Grant Sparks is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

An indictment is merely a charge and should not be considered as evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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