



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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EAGLE PASS MEN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR GUN/AMMUNITION SMUGGLING

United States Attorney Robert Pitman announced that in Del Rio, 23-year-old Juan Hector Guevara, II, and 26-year-old Juan J. Rodriguez were sentenced to 30 years and 27 years in federal prison, respectively on federal firearms charges.

In addition, United States District Judge Alia Moses ordered that both defendants pay a \$3,000 fine and be placed under supervised release for a period of three years after completing their prison terms.

According to information provided in court, Guevara and Rodriguez were the leaders of a criminal group of seven individuals that picked up guns and ammunition in Dallas and Austin, and then smuggled the guns and ammunition into Mexico through Eagle Pass. On July 25, 2010, Customs agents seized over 20,000 rounds of assault rifle and 9mm ammunition in a single load.

In October 2011, Guevara and Rodriguez pleaded guilty to two counts of smuggling goods from the United States and one count of being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm/ammunition.

By pleading guilty, Guevara admitted that on July 25, 2010, he attempted to export to Mexico approximately 12,550 rounds of .223 caliber and 8,350 rounds of 9mm ammunition through the Eagle Pass Port of Entry; Rodriguez admitted that in July 2010, he conspired with others to export two AR-15 assault rifles into Mexico through the Eagle Pass Port of Entry. At the time of the offenses, both defendants were convicted felons, having previously been convicted in federal court in Del Rio for possession with intent to distribute marijuana.

All seven members of the criminal enterprise have pleaded guilty in connection with this investigation. Prior to today, four had been sentenced to federal prison terms ranging from 30 months to 77 months. The final defendant, 19-year-old Prisila Cruz of Eagle Pass, is scheduled to be sentenced on March 27, 2012.

This case was investigated by agents with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations (ICE-HSI) together with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Assistant United States Attorney Benjamin Seal prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

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