



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

**Robert Pitman, U.S. Attorney**

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Contact: Daryl Fields  
Public Information Officer  
(210) 384-7440

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**CRYSTAL CITY MAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON  
FOR COCAINE AND HEROIN TRAFFICKING**

**United States Attorney Robert Pitman** announced that in Del Rio today, 55-year-old Valentin Mendoza, Jr. of Crystal City, Texas, was sentenced to 200 months in federal prison on federal drug trafficking charges.

In addition, United States District Judge Alia Moses ordered that Mendoza be placed under supervised release for a period of five years after completing his prison term.

Last month, Valentin's brother, Victor Mendoza, was sentenced to 264 months in federal prison for the same offense.

In April 2011, federal, state and local authorities arrested the Mendoza's and eight of their associates for their roles in a cocaine and heroin trafficking operation in the Crystal City area since March 2008. On August 30, 2011, Mendoza pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute heroin. The remaining defendants charged in connection with this investigation have entered guilty pleas and are awaiting sentencing.

This case was investigated by agents with the Drug Enforcement Administration together with investigators from the Zavala County Sheriff's Office. Assistant United States Attorney Jay Hulings is prosecuting this case on behalf of the government.

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