



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

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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, 53-year-old ringleader Victor Mendoza of Crystal City, Texas, was sentenced to 262 months in federal prison on federal drug trafficking charges.

In addition, United States District Judge Alia Moses ordered that Mendoza forfeit his interest in a number of properties, including two gas stations in Crystal City, Texas, several vehicles and approximately \$150,000 in cash that was found in his home on the day of his arrest. Judge Moses also ordered that Mendoza be placed under supervised release for a period of five years after completing his prison term and pay, along with his co-defendants, a \$2 million monetary judgment.

In April 2011, federal, state and local authorities arrested Mendoza and ten of his associates for their roles in a cocaine and heroin trafficking conspiracy in the Crystal City area operating since March 2008. On August 3, 2011, Mendoza pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute heroin. All ten of Mendoza's co-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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