



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

Robert Pitman, U.S. Attorney

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May 2, 2012

**11 ARRESTED IN FEDERAL SAN ANTONIO AREA-BASED
COCAINE TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATION**

United States Attorney Robert Pitman and DEA Special Agent in Charge Javier Pena announced the arrest of, and federal grand jury indictment against, 11 individuals in connection with a multi-million dollar drug trafficking operation.

Those arrested yesterday include: Jose Villegas-Martinez, age 46; Andrew Martinez, age 28; Israel Castillo, age 27; Delfina Castellon, age 44; Robert Vicente Ochoa, age 48; Juan Jaime Trevino, age 26; Julio Villegas, age 20; Avelino Villegas-Martinez, age 44; Abel Pacheco, age 31; Juan Vicente Medina, age 37; and, Jose Villegas, Jr., age 28.

The indictment, returned on April 4, 2012, and unsealed yesterday, charges those arrested with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine. Other charges contained in the indictment include conspiracy to commit money laundering plus aiding and abetting the possession with intent to distribute a cocaine.

According to the indictment, between February 2011 and April 2012, the defendants were involved in a conspiracy to distribute cocaine. During that same time period, the indictment alleges that defendants Jose Villegas-Martinez, Andrew Martinez, Israel Castillo, Julio Villegas, Avelino Villegas-Martinez, Juan Vicente Medina and Jose Villegas, Jr., conspired to collect; conceal in hidden vehicle compartments; and, return to the Republic of Mexico the monetary proceeds derived from the sale of the cocaine in North Carolina and elsewhere. The indictment also seeks a monetary judgment against the defendants in the amount of \$2,362,500—representing alleged proceeds derived from the defendants' cocaine distribution scheme. During this investigation, authorities have seized approximately 100 kilograms of cocaine and more than \$1.5 million in United States currency.

Upon conviction of the drug conspiracy charge, the defendants face between ten years and life in federal prison. It is important to note that an indictment is merely a charge and should not be considered as evidence of guilt. The defendants are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

This indictment resulted from an investigation conducted by agents with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration together with the Texas Department of Public Safety, Immigration and Customs Enforcement-Homeland Security Investigations, Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation, Texas Attorney General's Office and the police departments from San Antonio, Leon Valley, Pleasanton, Natalia and Atascosa. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Greg Surovic.

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