



U.S. Department of Justice

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**NEWS RELEASE
*JURY CONVICTS OGDEN MAN
OF FIREARMS, DRUG VIOLATIONS
AFTER TRIAL IN FEDERAL COURT***

SALT LAKE CITY – A federal jury deliberated just under an hour Tuesday morning before finding Carlos Manuel Mendez, age 26, of Ogden guilty of three federal firearms and drug violations.

The jury convicted Mendez of possessing a firearm after a felony conviction; possession of an unregistered short-barrel rifle; and possession of methamphetamine.

U.S. District Judge Dale Kimball set sentencing in the case for March 16, 2011, at 3 p.m. Mendez faces up to 10 years in federal prison for each of the three counts of conviction.

Mendez was arrested following an encounter with an Ogden police officer on March 8, 2010. The officer executed a traffic stop on a vehicle with four occupants. As the vehicle came to a stop, a male, later identified as Mendez, jumped out of the car holding something and started running. The object he was holding fell as he attempted to jump a fence. The officer caught up to Mendez and he was arrested. The object he dropped was a sawed-off Ruger 10-22 caliber rifle with a barrel length of less than 16

inches and an overall length of 26 inches and was not registered to Mendez. One round was chambered and seven more were in the magazine. Officers searching Mendez after his arrest found a bag of methamphetamine in his pockets.

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