

For Immediate Release
October 21, 2011

ROSWELL MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL FIREARMS CHARGE

LAS CRUCES – U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales announced that **Francisco Mejia**, 40, of Roswell, N.M., pled guilty yesterday in federal court in Las Cruces to an information charging him with being a felon in possession of a firearm. Mejia has been in federal custody since his arrest on August 9, 2011, and remains detained pending his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled. At sentencing, Mejia faces up to 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine and a three-year term of supervised release.

Mejia was charged by criminal complaint on August 3, 2011. The complaint alleged that on June 11, 2011, Roswell police officers responded to a domestic disturbance call at Mejia's Roswell residence. According to the complaint, Mejia told the officers that there was a firearm in a closet near the living room. Inside the closet, officers found a 9 mm pistol. In documents filed with the court, Mejia admitted to knowingly possessing the pistol. As part of his plea agreement with the government, Mejia has agreed not to associate with any motorcycle gang, including the "Bandidos," while he is on supervised release. According to the information filed today, Mejia was prohibited from possessing a firearm because he has a prior felony conviction for possession of cocaine base (crack) in the Fifth Judicial District Court (Chaves County).

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Roswell Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Nathan J. Lichvarcik.

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