

For Immediate Release
October 4, 2011

**MEXICAN NATIONAL SENTENCED TO 135 MONTHS IN PRISON
FOR NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING CONVICTION**

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning, a United States District Judge sentenced **Manuel Gambino-Zavala**, 23, a Mexican national, to a 135-month term of imprisonment for his narcotics trafficking conviction. Gambino-Zavala has been in federal custody since his arrest on July 21, 2010, and will be deported after he completes his prison sentence.

Court records reflect that, on July 21, 2010, Gambino-Zavala was arrested after agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and detectives the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) executed a federal search warrant at a residence in the northeast heights of Albuquerque and seized a large amount of heroin, methamphetamine, and drug paraphernalia. Prior to executing the search warrant, DEA agents and BCSO detectives observed Gambino-Zavala go in and out of the residence on several occasions. When Gambino-Zavala was arrested, he was in possession of a key that opened the front door to the residence.

On March 9, 2011, Gambino-Zavala entered a guilty plea to Count 2 of a two-count indictment charging him with possession of more than one kilogram of heroin. In his plea agreement, Gambino-Zavala acknowledged that, when the DEA and BCSO searched the residence, they seized 1177 grams of heroin and 124.1 grams of actual methamphetamine, which were hidden behind the backseat of a vehicle parked in the residence's garage. Gambino-Zavala admitted that he possessed the heroin and methamphetamine with the intention of distributing it.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said the case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Elaine Y. Ramirez, and was investigated by the DEA and BCSO.

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