



PRESS RELEASE

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**ARTESIA MAN SENTENCED TO 97 MONTHS IN PRISON
FOR FEDERAL DRUG AND FIREARMS CONVICTION**

LAS CRUCES – Earlier today, a federal district judge in Las Cruces sentenced Rene Aguirre, 26, of Artesia, N.M., to 97 months of imprisonment, announced U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales. After he completes his sentence, Aguirre will serve a three-year term of supervised release.

Aguirre pled guilty on July 26, 2012, to a three-count information charging him with possession of methamphetamine with the intent to distribute, carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking crime, and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

In entering his guilty plea, Aguirre admitted that on May 11, 2012, he had 11 grams of methamphetamine in his truck, along with two handguns and a rifle. Aguirre further admitted that he intended to distribute the methamphetamine. Aguirre was prohibited from possessing the firearms because he has a prior felony conviction for a drug trafficking offense in the Fifth Judicial District Court for the State of New Mexico (Eddy County).

Aguirre has been in federal custody since his arrest on May 15, 2012.

The case was investigated by the Roswell office of the FBI, the Pecos Valley Drug Task Force and the Artesia Police Department, and was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Donald F. Moore, Jr.

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