



PRESS RELEASE

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**FEDERAL JURY FINDS MEXICAN NATIONAL GUILTY OF
COCAINE TRAFFICKING AND IMMIGRATION CHARGES**

ALBUQUERQUE – Last night, a federal jury sitting in Albuquerque returned a guilty verdict against Godofredo Barraza-Flores, 32, a Mexican national, on cocaine trafficking and immigration charges after a two-day trial, announced U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales.

Barraza-Flores and co-defendant Carlos Ramirez-Talamantes, 23, also a Mexican national, were charged in July 2011, in a four-count indictment alleging a conspiracy to distribute cocaine and four cocaine trafficking offenses. Ramirez-Talamantes was arrested on July 22, 2011, and entered a guilty plea to indictment on March 23, 2012.

Barraza-Flores was arrested on Aug. 30, 2011, and has been in federal custody since that time. On Sept. 5, 2012, Barraza-Flores was charged in a five-count superseding indictment with conspiracy to distribute cocaine, three distributions of cocaine, and re-entry by a previously deported alien.

Barraza-Flores' trial on the superseding indictment began on Dec. 12, 2012. The evidence established that an undercover New Mexico State Police officer bought multi-ounce quantities of cocaine from Ramirez-Talamantes at locations in Albuquerque on three occasions: (1) two-ounces on March 29, 2011, (2) three-ounces on April 6, 2011, and (3) five-ounces on May 3, 2011. Immediately before and after each of these three drug deals, surveillance officers observed Ramirez -Talamantes meet with Barraza-Flores.

On May 17, 2011, Region III Narcotics Task Force officers executed an arrest warrant for Ramirez-Talamantes. When he was arrested, Ramirez-Talamantes was in possession of nine-ounces of cocaine which he intended to sell to the undercover officer and which he said belonged to Barraza-Flores. While Ramirez-Talamantes was being interviewed by officers, he received a telephone call from Barraza-Flores and the two talked about how Ramirez-Talamantes would deliver the money from the nine-ounce cocaine deal to Barraza-Flores. Shortly thereafter, another man met with Ramirez-Talamantes at the location agreed upon by Barraza-Flores and Ramirez-Talamantes. When questioned by officers, the man said that Barraza-Flores had instructed him to collect a quantity of money from Ramirez-Talamantes.

The jury also learned that Barraza-Flores previously had been deported in Feb. 2006, and had re-entered the United States without having obtained authorization to do so.

The jury deliberated approximately two and a half hours before returning a guilty verdict on all five counts of the superseding indictment.

Barraza-Flores remains in federal custody pending his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled. At sentencing, Barraza-Flores faces up to 20 years of imprisonment and a \$1,000,000 fine. He will be deported after he completes his prison sentence.

On Aug. 16, 2012, Ramirez-Talamantes was sentenced to a 37-month term of imprisonment. He also will be deported after he completes his prison sentence.

The case was investigated by Homeland Security Investigations, the New Mexico State Police, the Region III Narcotics Task Force and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Raul Torrez and Jon K. Stanford.

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