

For Immediate Release  
April 11, 2011

**LAS CRUCES MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL FIREARM CHARGE**

LAS CRUCES – In federal court in Las Cruces today, Las Cruces, New Mexico resident **Steven Raymond Soto**, 35, pled guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. Soto, who was arrested on December 1, 2010, will remain out of custody on a \$10,000 unsecured bond pending his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that the charge arose out of conduct occurring on October 7, 2010, in Doña County, New Mexico. According to the criminal complaint, the Las Cruces SWAT team went to an address on Aldrich Street in Las Cruces after receiving a 911 call that an individual inside the home was threatening to commit suicide. When officers arrived on the scene, Soto was inside the residence. After negotiating with Soto for approximately three hours, officers convinced him to come out of the residence. Inside the residence, officers found eleven guns, including rifles and revolvers. According to the indictment, Soto was prohibited from possessing a firearm because he had prior felony convictions in state district court in Doña County for conspiracy to commit robbery and residential burglary.

At sentencing, Soto could receive up to ten years of imprisonment. The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Las Cruces Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney W. Ronald Jennings.

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