

For Immediate Release  
April 18, 2011

**EL PASO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL MARIJUANA CHARGE**

LAS CRUCES – Today in Las Cruces, El Paso, Texas resident **Michael Amador**, 39, pled guilty to an information charging him with possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute. Amador has been in federal custody since his arrest on January 10, 2011, and will remain detained 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 January 10, 2011, in Otero County, New Mexico. According to a criminal complaint filed in the case, at around 9:45 p.m., Amador drove a Chevrolet Silverado into the United States Border Patrol Checkpoint on Highway 54 south of Alamogordo, New Mexico. A narcotics detecting canine alerted to the gas tank of the truck. Inside the gas tank, agents found two metal containers filled with 55 kilograms of marijuana.

At sentencing, Amador could receive up to 20 years of imprisonment and three years of supervised release. The case was investigated by the United States Border Patrol and the Drug Enforcement Administration, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Randy M. Castellano.

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