

For Immediate Release
April 22, 2011

**LAS CRUCES MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL FAILURE
TO REGISTER AS A SEX OFFENDER CHARGE**

Las Cruces – This morning in federal court in Las Cruces, New Mexico, **Raju Rickett**, a 35-year-old Las Cruces resident, pleaded guilty to an indictment charging him with a violation of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA). At sentencing, Rickett faces a maximum penalty of ten years of imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and five years of supervised release. Rickett has been in federal custody since his arrest on September 16, 2010 and remains detained pending his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that SORNA, also known as the Adam Walsh Protection and Safety Act, requires that a convicted sex offender register in each jurisdiction where the offender resides, where the offender is employed, or where the offender is a student, and that the sex offender maintain current registrations. According to the amended criminal complaint filed in this case, Rickett was required register as a sex offender because he was convicted of criminal sexual penetration in the Third Judicial District Court, Dona Ana County, for the State of New Mexico in 1998.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Stephen Wong and Ravi Sinha, and was investigated by United States Marshal's Service with assistance from the Dona Ana County Sheriff's Office's Sex Offender Registration Unit and the New Mexico State Police.

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11-187