



The United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
Western District of Louisiana

For Immediate Release
February 16, 2012

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FEDERAL JURY CONVICTS MAJOR DRUG TRAFFICKER

Defendant faces mandatory life in prison

Lafayette, La.: United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced today that Antonio Luna Valdez, Jr. 45, of Weslaco, Texas, has been convicted by a federal jury in Lafayette, La., of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine, cocaine base and marijuana.

Trial testimony revealed that Valdez and others were involved in smuggling and transporting hundreds of kilos of cocaine and thousands of pounds of marijuana from Mexico into the United States, including the Western District of Louisiana, utilizing 18-wheelers, SUVs and other vehicles. Drug Proceeds were then transported back to the Rio Grande Valley, Texas area.

At sentencing, Antonio Luna Valdez, Jr. faces a mandatory term of life imprisonment, a \$4,000,000 fine, or both. **Sentencing will be scheduled at a later date.**

The case was investigated by Homeland Security Investigations (formerly Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Daniel J. McCoy and Supervisory Assistant United States Attorney Richard A. Willis.

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