

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA * CRIMINAL NO: 17-193
v. * SECTION: "E"
EULALIO TORRES-CADENAS *
* * *

FACTUAL BASIS

The above-named defendant, **EULALIO TORRES-CADENAS** (“**TORRES-CADENAS**”), has agreed to plead guilty to Count 1 of the Indictment. Should this matter proceed to trial, the United States would prove beyond a reasonable doubt the facts set forth in this Factual Basis. Unless stated otherwise, these acts occurred in the Eastern District of Louisiana:

During the time frame of the charged drug conspiracy, Stefen DAIGLE, Peter GIANDALONE, Jacob HIGGINBOTHAM, Glenn MELANCON, Jeffrey CLINES, James HATCH, Angel Renee VIDAURE, Eulalio **TORRES-CADENAS**, Delio Alfredo LOPEZ-LOPEZ, Lindsey LOPEZ, Julien POLK, a/k/a “Simone” and others, conspired to distribute methamphetamine throughout the New Orleans area. Agents developed evidence against this group of eleven defendants using controlled purchases of methamphetamine, traffic stops and seizures, consensually-recorded text messages and phone calls, search warrants, cooperator information, and self-incriminating statements.

TORRES-CADENAS acknowledges that, during the time frame of this conspiracy, he sold methamphetamine to HATCH and VIDAURE. **TORRES-CADENAS** acknowledges that he knew the scope of the conspiracy involved 500 grams or more of a mixture containing methamphetamine.

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On May 23, 2017, law enforcement agents conducted the controlled purchase of 28.7 grams of a mixture of methamphetamine from CI-4. This mixture of 28.7 grams contained approximately 93% actual methamphetamine. Later that evening, after the controlled purchase, agents conducted a search warrant on a residence belonging to CI-4. CI-4 was present at the residence. The total amount of a mixture of methamphetamine recovered from a safe in the residence was 332.9 grams. This mixture of 332.9 grams contained approximately 98% actual methamphetamine. CI-4 was cooperative at the scene of the search warrant. CI-4 acknowledged that he had purchased the 28.7 grams and 332.9 grams of methamphetamine earlier that day (May 23) during a trip to Houston in which he acquired a pound of methamphetamine (approximately 454 grams). CI-4 paid \$5000 for the pound.

On July 13, 2017, law enforcement officers from USPIS and Louisiana State Police, working with Texas Department of Public Safety (“DPS”), Montgomery County Constable’s Office (“MCCO”), and Texas Highway Patrol (“THP”), set up an operation to use CI-4 to purchase a large quantity of methamphetamine from HATCH, VIDAURE, and **TORRES-CADENAS** in Houston. That day, at law enforcement’s direction, CI-4 called HATCH to set up the purchase of 1.5 pounds of methamphetamine for \$7,500.

Later that afternoon, CI-4, driven by an undercover MCCO officer (“UC”), traveled to the In-Town Suites Motel, located at 8735 West FM 1960, in Houston, to meet with HATCH and VIDAURE. While the UC stayed in the car, CI-4 went to room 112, occupied by HATCH and VIDAURE. CI-4 possessed \$7,500 at the time. A short time later, CI-4, HATCH and VIDAURE exited the room. CI-4 entered the UC’s car, and HATCH/VIDAURE entered a tan Lexus LS4 sedan. VIDAURE entered the driver’s seat and HATCH entered the passenger seat. The plan was to follow HATCH/VIDAURE to a meeting with their source of methamphetamine.

ETC
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Both HATCH and VIDAURE knowingly participated in the plan to broker the purchase of methamphetamine between CI-4 and **TORRES-CADENAS**.

HATCH/VIDAURE, followed by CI-4/UC, traveled from the motel to La Hacienda Restaurant, located at 12503 Telge Road, Cypress, Texas. HATCH/VIDAURE parked the Lexus on one side of the parking lot, and CI-4/UC parked on the other side. VIDAURE exited the Lexus and walked toward a tan Chevrolet Tahoe that was occupied by **TORRES-CADENAS**. VIDAURE entered the Tahoe and met with **TORRES-CADENAS**. In the meantime, HATCH moved from the passenger's side of the Lexus to the driver's side. A short time later, VIDAURE returned to the Lexus and entered the passenger's seat, and the Lexus drove off. CI-4/UC followed the Lexus.

THP made a traffic stop on the Lexus near 9309 West FM 1960, Houston, noting that the Lexus had a defective headlamp. HATCH and VIDAURE gave verbal consent to search the Lexus. Officers found on the front-passenger's-side floorboard 3 ziplock bags containing a mixture of methamphetamine with a net weight of 748 grams. Both HATCH and VIDAURE knowingly possessed the 748 grams with intent to distribute the methamphetamine to CI-4. HATCH acknowledged to agents that VIDAURE had received the 748 grams moments earlier from **TORRES-CADENAS**. HATCH provided **TORRES-CADENAS**'s phone number at the scene.

Meanwhile, surveillance teams located the Chevrolet Tahoe still in the La Hacienda parking lot. Agents approached **TORRES-CADENAS** to conduct further investigation. Upon questioning, **TORRES-CADENAS** denied knowing **HATCH** or VIDAURE and said he was going to work at La Hacienda. Agents located two cellular phones in **TORRES-CADENAS**'s possession. Agents called a phone number for **TORRES-CADENAS** that HATCH had provided

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during the traffic stop, and one of the phones in **TORRES-CADENAS**'s possession began to ring with the agents' phone number. Agents took a photograph of **TORRES-CADENAS** and sent the photo to agents that were still in presence of HATCH. HATCH positively identified **TORRES-CADENAS** as his supplier.

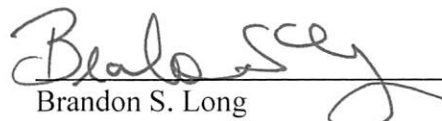
During an inventory of **TORRES-CADENAS**'s property, agents recovered \$6,500 in the pocket of **TORRES-CADENAS**'s jeans. The serial numbers on the cash matched the serial numbers on the drug-buy money that law enforcement had provided to CI-4 for the controlled purchase.

TORRES-CADENAS and the government stipulate for the purposes of sentencing that **TORRES-CADENAS** was responsible for at least 500 grams but less than 1.5 kilograms of actual methamphetamine, through **TORRES-CADENAS**'s own conduct and the reasonably foreseeable conduct of his co-conspirators.

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Limited Nature of Factual Basis

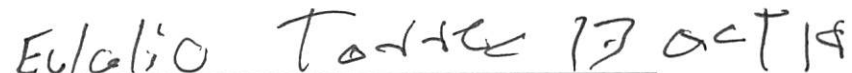
This proffer of evidence is not intended to constitute a complete statement of all facts, but rather is a minimum statement of facts intended to prove the necessary factual predicate for the guilty plea. The limited purpose of this proffer is to demonstrate that there exists a sufficient legal basis for **TORRES-CADENAS's** plea of guilty to the charged offense.


Brandon S. Long
Assistant United States Attorney

10/17/18
(Date)


Roma A. Kent
Counsel for Defendant Eulalio Torres-Cadenas

Oct. 17, 2018
(Date)


Eulalio Torres-Cadenas
Defendant

17 Oct 18
(Date)