

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

JAN 14 2026

for the
District of New Mexico

MITCHELL R. ELFERS
CLERK OF COURT

United States of America
v.
Ebajelina Silva and
Tania Maldonado

Case No. 26-MJ-149

Defendant(s)

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of November 4, 2023- July 7, 2025 in the county of Otero and elsewhere in the
 District of New Mexico , the defendant(s) violated:

<i>Code Section</i>	<i>Offense Description</i>
21 U.S.C. §846	Conspiracy to distribute 50 grams and more of methamphetamine and 500 grams and more of cocaine; and
18 U.S.C. § 1956(h)	Conspiracy to commit international money laundering.

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See attached affidavit, incorporated by reference herein.

Continued on the attached sheet.

Complainant's signature

Chandler Rule, DEA Special Agent

Printed name and title

Electronically submitted and telephonically Sworn to before me.

Date: 14 Jan 2026

City and state: Las Cruces New Mexico

Judge's signature

Damian L. Martinez, United States Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

AFFIDAVIT

I, DEA Special Agent (SA) Chandler Rule, Affiant, being duly sworn, state that the following information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief:

The following information is based upon my personal involvement in this investigation and information provided to me by other officers and agents and is presented as probable cause to charge Ebajelina Silva (Silva) and Tania Maldonado (Tania) with conspiracy to distribute 50 grams and more of methamphetamine and 500 grams and more of cocaine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846, and conspiracy to commit international money laundering, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h). Since this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause of these offenses, I have not included each and every known fact regarding this investigation. More specifically, I have set forth only pertinent facts that I believe are necessary to establish probable cause.

Since July 2025, the DEA Las Cruces District Office has been investigating the Silva Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO). Agents have learned that Silva traffics methamphetamine and cocaine from Mexico, through New Mexico, to various places within the United States. Furthermore, agents know that Silva has directed other individuals, to include her boyfriend/husband Reymondo Mandonado (Mandonado), to pick up narcotics in Mexico and deliver them to places in the United States. Agents also know that Silva frequently directed Mandonado to send money, via Money Service Businesses (MSBs) to Mexico, to further the drug trafficking activities. Mandonado would then provide multiple names of individuals in Mexico to his sister, Tania. Tania would then send those individuals money, via MSBs. Agents also know that Tania would receive money, on the behalf of the Silva DTO, from individuals involved in the DTO in Wichita, Kansas. Tania and Silva currently reside and operate in Denver, Colorado.

Background Information on Money Service Businesses

Based on my training and experience, I know that people involved in drug trafficking and money laundering frequently send money via MSBs because MSBs allow customers to send money without the involvement of banks or online payment systems like CashApp. MSBs are often used to send remittances from the United States to other countries, including Mexico.

The term MSB can refer to either a corporate MSB, like Western Union, or a local agent, which is often a storefront relying on a corporate MSB to send money. The corporate MSBs effectively provide the “tubes” through which money flows from the United States to Mexico.

In the typical transaction, the wire transfer process begins when a customer enters an authorized MSB agent for the purpose of sending money to a receiver. The customer provides a MSB employee with their name, address, and telephone number. The customer also provides the name of the receiver of the wire transfer, as well as the receiver's city, state, and country. The MSB employee then enters this information into the corporate MSB's computer system. The customer then provides the employee with the cash amount to be transferred, including the transmission fee (typically around \$10). The employee gives the customer a receipt containing the information

s/he provided, along with the date and time of the transfer and a unique transaction number. The customer provides this unique transaction number, often called a Money Transfer Control Number (“MTCN”), to the receiver in Mexico to allow him/her to collect the cash. The Bank Secrecy Act and its implementing regulations require MSB agents to record specific information for transfers over \$3,000. Border states, like New Mexico and Arizona, impose a lower threshold of \$1,000. Thus, MSB agents typically require photo IDs for transactions at or above \$1,000.

MSBs have become a preferred money laundering method for Mexican drug cartels. The use of MSBs has several advantages. First, drug traffickers can take the cash from large transactions directly to the MSB, drop it off, and feel confident that it is safe from theft. Second, traffickers can avoid the risk that bulk cash shipments will be interdicted by law enforcement or stolen after they cross into Mexico. Third, once cash is left with an MSB, it becomes more difficult for law enforcement officers to seize it. The MSB agent typically maintains a relationship with a local bank, which “owns” the cash immediately after the transaction is sent.

Drug traffickers often “structure” the transmission of the bulk cash into numerous increments between \$900 and \$999 to avoid state laws or the corporate MSB’s photo ID requirement. Drug traffickers do this in order to conceal the nature, source, and ownership of the drug trafficking proceeds. After sending the money, the drug traffickers who are sending the money typically photograph the receipts and send them to their contacts in Mexico, or in this case to Silva and Mandonado, who then pass on the information so that the money can be picked up in Mexico.

The pattern of structuring differs among different locations, but the end result is the same: cash drug proceeds are dropped off at MSBs in the United States and are later picked up in Mexico.

Traffic stop of Reymondo Mandonado on July 7, 2025, and seizure of 146.7 net kilograms of pure methamphetamine and 4.875 net kilograms of cocaine.

On July 7, 2025, a New Mexico State Police (NMSP) agent was patrolling U.S. 54 Highway, in Otero County, New Mexico, when he observed a white GMC Sierra, pulling an enclosed trailer, driving northbound on US 54. The agent checked the speed of the GMC and learned it was driving faster than the posted speed limit, 78 MPH in a 65 MPH zone. The agent also observed that the trailer had a tail lamp that was not operating.

The NMSP agent then conducted traffic stop for the traffic infractions. The NMSP agent identified the driver and lone occupant as Mandonado. During the traffic stop, the NMSP agent determined that the GMC was registered to Mandonado and Silva. The NMSP agent also determined that the trailer was registered to Silva.

At the conclusion of the traffic stop, the NMSP Agent asked Mandonado for consent to search Mandonado’s vehicle and the trailer. Mandonado granted the agent verbal and written consent to search the vehicle and trailer. Mandonado also told the NMSP agent that the key for the lock on the trailer was in the driver’s door.

During the subsequent search, the NMSP Agent found 160 kilogram-sized bundles, which were consistent with packages of controlled substances, located in a post-manufactured compartment

in the floor of the enclosed trailer. Mandonado was arrested, and the agent located Mandonado's phone on his person. The suspected narcotics and cell phone were seized as evidence. The GMC and trailer were initially towed to a tow lot in Otero County, New Mexico.

The suspected narcotics were submitted to the DEA Laboratory. The DEA Laboratory determined that the bundles seized from the trailer contained 146.7 net kilograms of pure methamphetamine and 4.875 net kilograms of cocaine.

Subsequent to Mandonado's arrest, agents identified a telephone number used by Silva (the Silva Phone), whom Mandonado identified as his long-term girlfriend to Pretrial Services. Pretrial Services also spoke to Silva on the Silva Phone as part of the pretrial verification of Mandonado's information. Additionally, in July 2025, the tow company who took possession of Silva's GMC received a phone call from Silva, using the Silva Phone, to coordinate picking up the GMC.

Also in July, 2025, the tow company released the GMC to Tania Maldonado (Tania). Tania provided her Colorado driver's license and telephone number (the Tania Phone) when she later picked up the GMC in Otero County, NM.

On July 15, 2025, agents obtained search warrants in the District of New Mexico to search Mandonado's phone and to search the Google account associated to the Silva Phone.

An analysis of Mandonado's phone revealed Mandonado, Silva, Tania, and others, had been involved in drug trafficking and money laundering activities since at least 2023.

In Mandonado's phone, agents located the phone number for the Silva Phone, saved as "Love work." I believe "Love Work" indicates that the user of the Silva Phone is in a romantic relationship with Mandonado and, that it is the user's work phone. I know from my training and experience that it is common for drug traffickers to utilize multiple phones. I also know that drug traffickers often have a personal phone that is used for non-drug trafficking communications and a work phone that is used for drug trafficking.

Also in Mandonado's phone, agents located the Tania Phone, saved as "Tania Sis." Agents believe that Tania is Mandonado's sister. During this investigation, agents have learned that Mandonado's family name is Maldonado, but that his last name was accidentally spelled incorrectly on his birth certificate, resulting in his last name being Mandonado rather than Maldonado.

Throughout this affidavit, where I am describing communications between Mandonado, Silva, Tania, and others, those conversations were obtained from either search warrant of Mandonado's phone or the Google search warrant on the account associated with the Silva Phone.

November 4-6, 2023 – Mandonado and Silva arrange to have Tania and others send drug proceeds to multiple individuals in Mexico.

In November 2023, Mandonado had a conversation with Silva, using the Silva phone. Leading up to November 4, 2023, Silva provided information to Mandonado indicating that she was in Mexico and was attending a dangerous meeting. Silva also told Mandonado, "We need to go on the low." The following are text messages between Mandonado and Silva on November 4, 2025:

Silva: Love need you to send some sends
Mandonado: How I send it love
By when you need them love
You okay love
Silva: Lets see who wa.ts to send
Mandonado: I got Tania, Erica, and gil
And maybe Victor too
Silva: K lov
And with those
You want names
Mandonado: How much you need send love
Yeah how many names
Silva: 10

Based on my training and experience, I believe Silva was directing Mandonado to send drug proceeds to Mexico and was asking who he had available to send the money. I believe that Mandonado was stating that Tania, who agents have determined to be Tania Maldonado, Erica, Gil, and Victor were available to send money. Also, I believe that Silva was asking Mandonado if he wanted Silva to send names of people to whom they could send the money in Mexico. Furthermore, I believe Silva was requesting that Mandonado send \$10,000. I believe they were conspiring to wire money through an MSB, such as Western Union. I also believe they were structuring the wire transfers in smaller increments and using multiple people to avoid law enforcement from determining that the money being sent was drug proceeds and to conceal the location and ownership of the drug proceeds.

On November 5, 2023, Silva and Mandonado continued their conversation pertaining to sending money. The following are text messages between Silva and Mandonado on November 5, 2023:

Mandonado: When are they going to give the names love to send
Silva: Jose Tomas Pereyra Torres
Claudia Zavala Ramirez
Mandonado: Only two love
Silva: How many you need lov
Mandonado: I was going to have them send the 10 you need love
Silva: Okay
Mandonado: 1900 with envoi right so would need 5 names
Silva: K

Yeah
Durango

...
Silva: Jose Angel Torres Rodriguez
Perla Melissa Torres Gonzalez

...
Silva: Francisco Javier Carrasco Valdivia

On November 6, 2023, Mandonado and Tania Maldonado had a conversation during which the following ensued:

Mandonado: Jose Angel Torres Rodriguez
Perla Melissa Torres Gonzalez
Tania: [Sent a picture of a money wire receipt indicating Tania sent \$1,875 to Perla Melissa Torres Gonzalez and \$1,875 to Jose Angel Torres Rodriguez, on November 6, 2023.]

Agents utilized a law enforcement database that tracks money sent from MSBs from the United States to Mexico and other areas. Agents were able to confirm that Tania sent \$1,875 to Perla Melissa Torres Gonzalez and \$1,875 to Jose Angel Torres Rodriguez, on November 6, 2023. Additionally, the financial database indicated that Tania provided her Colorado driver's license and her phone number, which is the Tania Phone identified in Mandonado's phone.

February 5, 2024 – Mandonado and Silva imported methamphetamine and/or cocaine into the United States.

According to a border crossing query, on February 5, 2024, at approximately 6:35 p.m., Silva and Mandonado crossed into the United States from Mexico at an El Paso Port of Entry, pulling an enclosed trailer, which is similar to the trailer stopped by agents in July 2025 which was concealing the seized methamphetamine and cocaine. Agents suspect that it is the same trailer, but that it was bearing a different license plate. On February 5, 2024, at approximately 9:50 p.m., the vehicle and trailer, which Mandonado and Silva had crossed in, was observed in Otero County, New Mexico, on U.S. Hwy 54, as it traveled through a Border Patrol Checkpoint. The following is a photograph, from Silva's Google account, of Silva and Mandonado together on February 4, 2025.



The following is a photograph of Silva and Mandonado entering the United States from Mexico, at the Paso Del Norte Port of Entry on February 4, 2024.



From Silva's Google account, agents located a video, dated two days later, on February 6, 2024, depicting an individual wearing a black coat, which appeared to be the same coat worn by Mandonado in the photograph from Silva's Google account, taken on February 4, 2024. Based on the individual's build and attire, I believe that the individual in the photograph was Mandonado. The video shows Mandonado removing multiple kilogram-sized bundles which are consistent with bundles of narcotics from inside the floor of the enclosed trailer. Furthermore, a female can be heard in the background. A voice comparison with the video and jail calls between Silva and Manodanda, shows that the female speaking is Silva.

Also in Silva's Google account, agents located a photograph, also dated on February 6, 2024, depicting an enclosed trailer with a post-manufactured compartment in the floor, concealing multiple kilogram-sized bundles. The picture also shows what I believe to be Mandonado's arm, wearing the same coat from February 4, 2024. The photograph also had GPS location data, indicating that it was in Wichita, Kansas. The following is the picture from Silva's Google account:



March 2024 - Mandonado and Silva imported methamphetamine and/or cocaine into the United States and transported it through New Mexico to Kansas.

On March 5, 2024, Mandonado received a text message from Discount Tire in El Paso, Texas, that his vehicle was finished. Shortly thereafter, Silva texted Mandonado and told him that the truck would be done shortly. On March 6, 2024, Silva sent Mandonado two Google locations in Juarez, Mexico. The same day, Mandonado received a text message from Zelle, an electronic financial application that allows peer-to-peer transactions, which indicated that Tania had sent him \$500.

On March 6, 2024, a border crossing query indicated that Silva and Mandonado crossed into the United States from Mexico at a approximately 3:50 p.m., at an El Paso, Texas, Port of Entry. The same vehicle that Silva and Mandonado crossed into the United States with was observed on the same day, at approximately 5:07 p.m., at the United States Border Patrol Checkpoint on United States Highway 54 Checkpoint, in New Mexico. Also on March 6, 2024, Silva sent Mandonado several address in the United States, to include addresses in Illinois, Alabama, and Mississippi.

On March 10, 2024, Mandonado had a conversation with a telephone number subscribed to Oswaldo Rodriguez-Rodriguez, out of Wichita, Kansas. During the conversation, Rodriguez sent Mandonado an address. Mandonado then stated, "We should be there in a 1:30-minute." Shortly thereafter, Mandonado stated, "We here." Rodriguez responded, "I am in the back of the building." Mandonado then stated, "Is there room for us in the trailer."

Based on my training, experience, and knowledge of this investigation, I believe that Mandonado and Silva delivered methamphetamine and/or cocaine to Rodriguez in Wichita, Kansas. I have learned that Rodriguez was indicted out of the District of Kansas, on August 20, 2025, for

conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, and maintaining a drug premises.

Aprill 2024 – Tania Mandonado sent drug proceeds to various individuals in Mexico.

On April 1, 2024, Silva sent four different names to Mandonado. The following day, Silva asked Mandonado if his sister was going to send the money, Silva then sent Mandonado the following names, “Jose Angel Torres Rodriguez and Jaime Torres Rodriguez.” Mandonado then forwarded “Jose Angel Torres Rodriguez” and “Jaime Torres Rodriguez” to Tania, via text message. Tania stated that she would get them done that day. Tania also told Mandonado that she would have “Juan” do the other [wire transfer]. Later on the same day, Mandonado sent Tania two more names. Tania then asked if she could send them the following day.

According to a financial database, on April 2, 2024, Tania sent \$890 to Jose Angel Torres Rodriguez, in Durango, Mexico, and \$890 to Jaime Torres Rodriguez, in Durango, Mexico. On April 3, 2025, Erika Baraja Maldonado, sent \$890 to Claudia Zavala Ramirez, in Durango, Mexico. On April 4, 2024, Tania, via text message, told Mandonado that she sent it under “Erika.” Based on the that text message, I believe that it was actually Tania who sent the \$890 on April 2, 2024, and that she just listed the sender as Erika Baraja Maldonado. On April 5, 2024, Tania sent \$890 to Jose Tomas Pereyra-Torres, in Durango, Mexico. The three transactions under Tania’s name each listed the Tania Phone as the sender’s telephone number.

May 2024 – Silva and Mandonado picked up drug proceeds in Wichita, Kansas and other locations.

Beginning on May 12, 2024, Mandonado and Silva had a conversation pertaining to what I believe were drug proceeds. Based on the conversation, I believe that Silva and Mandonado were in Wichita, Kansas. together. During the conversation, Silva sent Mandonado two phone numbers with Wichita area codes, and she told Mandonado to call thm. Silva then told Mandonado that she was talking to them about the cash. Mandonado then asked Silva if he was supposed to drop off, which Silva stated, “yes.” Silva then told Mandonado that there was supposed to be 30 in cash, which agents believe to mean \$30,000. Silva then sent Mandonado an address and stated, “Let me know when you get money.”

The conversation between Silva and Mandonado continued on May 14 and 15, 2024. During the conversation, Silva sent Mandonado additional addresses. Mandonado then stated, “From next pick up it to oak city in 10 in a half hours.” Silva then asked when they would make it home. The following messages were then sent from Silva to Mandonado (the responses from Mandonado were not captured via the search warrant):

Silva: Hopefully its a safe address.
 Don't go to far love they were supposed to give me 60.
 Hury love to gas dtayion.
 Omg love need to make phone call.
 They need to give me more.

I have to pay for a airplane.
Gerardi waiting for cash.
This guy will give me more in an hour.
Lets go.
They not going to have it.

The conversation between Silva and Mandonado continued. The conversation indicated that they were no longer in Wichita, Kansas, and that Silva and Mandonado met with an individual who provided them cash. Silva told Mandonado that the individual had shorted them cash. Silva then directed Mandonado, "Call him and tell him the package was of 5 and 2 of 1,000." Mandonado then stated, "6400 he says." Silva responded, "Ask my brother."

Based on my training and experience, I believe that Silva was coordinating to pick up drug proceeds from co-conspirators. I also believe that the individuals did not provide all the money that was owed to Mandonado and Silva.

August 2024 – Tania picked up money that was owed to Silva and Mandonado for their drug trafficking activities.

On August 8, 2024, Mandonado had a conversation with Silva, via text message. During the conversation, Silva stated, "Love could Tania receive money from Mexico." Mandonado stated, "Let me ask her."

According to ta financial database, on August 8, 2024, Karime Yajayra Castillo-Rodriguez, Durango, Mexico, sent \$2,063 to Tania Maldonado, in Denver, Colorado.

Based on my training, experience, and knowledge of this investigation, I believe that Tania received money that was owed to Mandonado and Silva based on their drug trafficking activities. I believe that Silva and Mandonado did not want to receive the money in their own names in order to conceal the nature, source, and ownership of the money.

November 2024 – Tania picked up drug proceeds owed to Silva and Mandonado on multiple occasions.

On November 1, 2024, Mandonado had a conversation with Tania, via text message. During the conversation, Mandonado indicated to Tania that he was in Chihuahua, Mexico, and was waiting until Monday. On November 5, 2024, Mandonado sent a text message stating, "If they send money can you get it sis?" Tania responded, "Yes brother, but after 4." On November 6, 2024, the following conversation between Tania and Mandonado ensued:

Mandonado: Pick up is tonight sis.
Tania: Poncho. Where?
Mandonado: Limousine.
Tania: Sounds Good.

A border crossing query indicated that Silva and Mandonado crossed from Mexico into the United States, on November 6, 2025, at approximately 9:32 a.m. at the Santa Teresa Port of Entry. Based on the above conversations, I believe that Silva and Mandonado crossed into the United States and then rode a bus back to the Denver, Colorado area. I also know that it is common for drug traffickers to utilize buses to smuggle drugs throughout the United States.

On November 8, 2024, Mandonado had another conversation with Silva, via text message. During the conversation, Silva asked, "Hey can your sister pick up money." Mandonado responded, "I'm sure after 4." Silva then sent Mandonado a picture of a screen shot from a phone screen. The screen shot was of a photograph of a money wire receipt, indicating that Oswaldo Rodriguez-Gutierrez, in Wichita, Kansas, had sent money to Tania. Silva then stated, "2000." Also on November 8, 2024, Mandonado had a conversation with Tania. The following conversation ensued:

Tania: Brother how much is it?
Mandonado: 2000
Did you go to Western Union sis?
Tania: No brother I went to Walmart.
Maldonado: But Western Union there right?
Tania: Yes.

December 2024 – Silva and Mandonado imported methamphetamine and/or cocaine into the United States and transported it to Wichita, Kansas.

On December 9, 2024, according to a border crossing query, Silva and Mandonado crossed into the United States at the Santa Teresea Port of Entry, in New Mexico, from Mexico, while pulling an enclosed trailer. The trailer was bearing the same trailer license plate as the trailer that Maldonado was pulling with the cocaine and methamphetamine on July 7, 2025. On the same day, the vehicle and trailer in which Maldonado and Silva entered in to the United States was observed on U.S. HWY 54, in Otero County, New Mexico, as it drove through a Border Patrol Checkpoint.

On the following day, Mandonado received a text message from Silva with an address of 626 W. 21st St., Wichita, Kansas. Agents believe that Silva was providing Mandonado with the meeting location for where they were to deliver the drugs that they were bringing into the United States

February 2025 – Silva provided names of individuals in Mexico to whom drug proceeds could be sent, and, at Mandonado's request, Tania sent drug proceeds to those individuals in Mexico.

On February 4, 2025, Silva and Mandonado again crossed into the United States from Mexico at the Santa Teresa Port of Entry, in Southern New Mexico. Mandonado and Silva were driving a GMC Yukon, pulling the enclosed trailer. The following day, Silva sent Mandonado the directions to 6135 S. Hydraulic Ave., which is a location in Wichita, Kansas.

On February 19, 2025, Mandonado and Silva exchanged text messages. During the conversation, Silva sent Mandonado the following names, "Karime Yajayra Castillo Rodriguez," "Robert

Valazquez Arellano,” “Jorge Ivan Reyes Avalos,” and “Jose Eduardo Alanis Gabelena.” Mandonado then stated, “Need the other name.” Mandonado also stated, “To send the last 3 for 1900.” Silva then sent, “Jesus Fernando Arce Ganarilla.”

That same day, on February 19, 2025, Mandonado had a conversation with Tania, via text message. The following text messages ensued:

Tania: Do you have names yet.
Mandonado: Karime Yajayra Castillo Rodriguez
Roberto Valezquez Arellano
It one 900. 1900 other.
Thank you sis.
Tania: Of course thank u.
I got groceries money.
Mandonado: You send it your self.
Tania: Ya I did both.
Mandonado: Okay.
Tania: U have more???
Mandonado: I do.
Tania: How many?
Mandonado: Like 4 more was going to have gil do some and he’s friend so they don’t ask questions.
Tania: O Ok. I. Can have Juan send one also. A small one.
Mandonado: I only have 1900 ones.
...
Mandonado: I’ll let you know you need money sis.
Tania: I can do it under Erica name. Brother will I get her in trouble???
Mandonado: No it won’t.

According to a financial database, on February 19, 2025, Tania sent \$1,875 to Roberto Velazquez Arellano and \$885 to Karime Yajayra Castillo Rodriguez, in Durango, Mexico.

Based on my training, experience, and knowledge of this investigation, I believe that Tania asked Mandonado if he had the names to send drug proceeds to in Mexico. I also believe that Tania was bragging to Mandonado that she had earned money to pay for groceries by sending the money to the individuals in Mexico. I know that it is common for drug trafficker to pay for people to send drug proceeds in Mexico, thus I believe that Mandonado was paying Tania to send the drug proceeds. Furthermore, I also believe that Tania was asking Mandonado if he had more money to send to Mexico, and that she was willing to have other people send money on her behalf or was using fictitious names to prevent being detected by law enforcement. Additionally, I believe that Tania knew that it was illegal for her to send drug proceeds to Mexico and that she was structuring payments in a manner that was illegal, when she asked if it would get “Erica” in trouble if she sent the money under her name.

March 2025 – Silva and Mandonado imported cocaine and/or methamphetamine from Mexico into the United States and transported the drugs to Kansas, and they then coordinated for Tania to send drug proceeds to multiple individuals in Mexico, which Tania did.

On March 7, 2025, Silva and Mandonado crossed into the United States at the Santa Teres, New Mexico Port of Entry from Mexico, driving a Cadillac Escalade, pulling the same enclosed trailer later seized on July 7, 2025. On the same day, approximately an hour and half later, the Cadillac and the trailer were observed in Otero County, New Mexico, on U.S. HWY 54, as they were traveling through a Border Patrol Checkpoint. On March 8, 2025, Mandonado received a text message from the Wyndham Hotel in Liberal, Kansas, indicating that they had stayed the night in the hotel on March 7, 2025.

On March 8, 2025, Mandonado sent multiple photographs and a video, via text, to Silva. The first photograph depicted approximately 25 kilogram-sized packages, which are consistent with packages of narcotics, in the floor of the enclosed trailer. The second photograph depicts additional kilogram-sized packages in the floor of the trailer. The third photograph depicts approximately 49 kilogram-sized packages inside the floor of the trailer. The fourth photograph depicts multiple kilogram-sized packages of suspected narcotics in the floor of the trailer. The video depicted an individual, who agents believe to be Mandonado, removing screws from the enclosed trailer. The video clearly depicts an individual wearing a bracelet on his right arm, which appears to be the same bracelet Mandonado was wearing during his arrest in July 2025.

On March 10, 2025, Mandonado had a conversation with Silva, via text message. Silva sent the following names, “Jose Tomas Pereyra Torres,” “Karime Yajayra Castillo Rodriguez,” Yadhira Perla Maria Gutierrez Gandarilla,” and “Jesus Fernando Arce Gandarilla,” to Mandonado.

Thereafter, also on March 10, 2025, Mandonado sent the following names, via text message, to Tania, “Jose Tomas Pereyra Torres” and “Karime Yajayra Castillo Rodriguez.” Mandonado also stated, “Put Jose 1900.” Tania then told Mandonado that she couldn’t do them until the morning because she was at work. Mandonado responded to Tania that he needed them that day. He then told her to erase the names and that he was going to send new ones. Mandonado then sent, “Yadhira Perla Maria Gutierrez Gandarilla” and “Jesus Fernando Arce Gandarilla.” Tania later sent two photographs of a money wire receipts indicating that Tania had sent \$900 to Yadhira Perla Maria Gutierrez Gandarilla and \$1,900 to Jesus Fernando Arce Gandarilla.

On the same day, Mandonado sent Silva the photographs of the money wire receipts, originally sent from Tania, indicating that Tania had sent the money. Again, agents utilized a financial database and confirmed that Tania had sent the money to the individuals in Mexico.

Based on my training, experience, and knowledge of this investigation, I believe that Silva and Mandonado crossed into the United States, in New Mexico, from Mexico, with methamphetamine and/or cocaine, and that they delivered the drugs to Wichita, Kansas. I also believe that Silva sent the names of individuals in Mexico to Mandonado, for Mandonado to coordinate Tania to send drug proceeds from the shipment of drugs delivered to Kansas. I also believe that Mandonado forwarded the same names to Tania with directions of how much money to send to the individuals. Additionally, I believe that Tania confirmed with Mandonado that she

had sent the drug proceeds to Mexico, when she sent the photographs of the money wire receipts to Mandonado. Finally, I believe that Mandonado forwarded the photographs of the receipts sent by Tania to Silva, to confirm that the drug proceeds had been sent to Mexico.

April - May 2025 – On two different occasions, Silva and Mandonado imported cocaine and/or methamphetamine from Mexico into the United States and transported the drugs to Kansas, and then Tania sent drug proceeds to multiple individuals in Mexico.

Beginning on April 27, 2025, Mandonado and Silva had a conversation, via text message. Silva provided Mandonado with the address to a Motel 6 in El Paso, Texas. Later, Silva provided an address in Juarez, Mexico. Silva then directed Mandonado to send his location when Mandonado was near the Juarez address, so that Silva could send the location to the individuals who were there, in Juarez. The conversation continued into the following day, with Silva directing Mandonado where to go, and instructing him to tell the individual he was meeting with that Silva was inside the store. Later on, Mandonado told Silva that it was done.

On April 28, 2025, a border crossing query indicated that Mandonado had crossed into the United States, from Mexico. Mandonado was not pulling the trailer when he crossed into the United States.

From April 28, 2025, to May 3, 2025, Mandonado and Silva continued to text back and forth. Based on the conversation, Mandonado was waiting in El Paso, Texas. Silva then told Mandonado that the individual was on his way. Mandonado then told Silva that he had crossed into Mexico. Silva asked Mandonado to tell her when he was in line to cross back into the United States. Mandonado eventually confirmed with Silva that he had crossed into the United States and that he had passed the secondary checkpoint.

On May 3, 2025, a border crossing query indicated that Mandonado had crossed into the United States, from Mexico, and that this time he was again pulling the enclosed trailer with the same registration as the trailer seized on July 7, 2025. Based on the travel pattern and conversation between Silva and Mandonado, I believe that, on approximately April 28, 2025, Mandonado had dropped the enclosed trailer off in Juarez, Mexico for it to be filled with narcotics. Mandonado then returned to El Paso, Texas, while the trailer was being loaded. Once the trailer was loaded, Mandonado returned to Juarez, Mexico to pick up the trailer and cross the narcotics into the United States.

On May 4, 2025, Silva and Mandonado exchanged text messages. Silva sent Mandonado an address, believed to be in Wichita, Kansas. The following then conversation ensued:

Silva: Let me know when you there.
Mandonado: I'm Here.
Silva: K they there.
Did they give you the money?
Mandonado: Not yet.
Silva: Son 141 make sure you count plz.
And ask for the money too.

Mandonado: Money not here.
Silva: Oh no what they said?
Mandonado: He's calling they didn't tell him nothing.
Silva: Wow le me call don't leave.

Based on my training, experience, and knowledge of this investigation, I believe that the above conversation indicates that Mandonado had delivered 141 bundles of methamphetamine and/or cocaine to Wichita, Kansas, and that he had delivered the drugs to an address provided by Silva. I also believe that Silva was reminding Mandonado to pick up money for the drugs, and that Mandonado was telling Silva that the people in Kansas said they didn't have any money to provide to Mandonado. I believe that Silva was then indicating that Mandonado should stay at the Wichita address while Silva called an unknown person to find out why the money was not there.

Agents utilized a financial database and learned that, four days later, on May 8, 2025, Tania sent \$890 to Jose Angel Torres Rodriguez, in Durang, Mexico, and \$1,880 to Jose Tomas Pereyra Torres, in Durango Mexico.

On May 18, 2025, law enforcement databases show that Mandonado again crossed the international border at approximately 6:36 p.m., in El Paso, Texas, coming into the United States from Mexico, pulling the enclosed trailer. On the same day, at approximately 7:53 p.m., the same vehicle and trailer were observed in Otero County, New Mexico, on U.S. HWY 54, traveling through a Border Patrol Checkpoint.

The financial database shows that, on May 27, 2025, Tania sent \$1,800 to Jose Angel Torres Rodriguez, in Durango, Mexico, and \$1,880 to Lucina Flores Castro, in Durango, Mexico. Based on my training, experience, and knowledge of this investigation, I believe that Tania was sending drug proceeds, on behalf of Mandonado and Silva, back to Durango, Mexico.

June 2025 – Mandonado, while coordinating with Silva, imported cocaine and/or methamphetamine from Mexico into the United States, and Tania then sent drug proceeds to an individual in Mexico.

On June 8, 2025, Silva and Mandonado exchanged text messages. During the conversation, Mandonado told Silva that he had just crossed, indicating he had just entered the United States from Mexico, and that he had passed the secondary, which agents believe to mean the United States Border Patrol Checkpoint. A border crossing query confirmed that Mandonado had crossed into the United States from Mexico at the Santa Teresa, New Mexico, Port of Entry while pulling the enclosed trailer.

Agents utilized the financial database and learned that, on June 13, 2025, Tania sent \$1,875 to Jose Tomas Pereyra Torres, in Durango, Mexico. Based on my training, experience, and knowledge of this investigation, I believe that Silva coordinated for Mandonado to pick up a load of drugs from Mexico and deliver it into the United States. I also believe that Mandonado coordinated for Tania to send some of the drug proceeds of the trip to Mexico. I therefore believe that Tania sent \$1,875 of drug proceeds to Tomas Pereyra Torres, in Durango, Mexico.

July 2025 - Mandonado, while coordinating with Silva, imported 146.7 net kilograms of pure methamphetamine and 4.875 net kilograms of cocaine from Mexico into the United States

On July 7, 2025, the day of traffic stop on Mandonado when agents seized 146.7 net kilograms of pure methamphetamine and 4.875 net kilograms of cocaine from him, Mandonado and Silva exchanged text messages, during which the following ensued:

Silva: [Sent photographs of the insurance card and Colorado registration for the GMC]
Cuanto te falta (Translates to "How much longer")
Mandonado: Like two hours
Silva: Like or 2hrs love
Mandonado: 2 hours cross
Silva: Okay lov. How you doing. Let me know when you get there
Mandonado: Im good when I'm going to cross
Silva: Before plz so they could be ready
Mandonado: Okay
Silva: Cuanto te falta (Translates to "How much longer")
Mandonado: Like 30 minutes
Silva: K. Let me know when you about to cross
Mandonado: I'm here at love getting ready
Silva: Wait love. Fuck can't use my phone tony here. It's different location
Mandonado: Okay
Silva: Don't cross yet.
Mandonado: Okay
...
Silva: [Sent a Google Maps location]
Silva: Let me know how far are you from there
Mandonado: 52 minutes. Going now"
Silva: K
Mandonado: Cross already
Silva: Okah love. Cuanto te falta (Translates to "How much longer")
Mandonado: 2 minutes
Silva: If they ask im inside store. Take a picture of hotel plz. Que no te vean (Translates to "make sure they don't see you")
Mandonado: [Sent three photographs of the outside of a hotel]
...
Silva: It's the one we went to ones
Mandonado: No. Different
...

After the above text message exchange, an officer conducted a traffic stop on Mandonado and located 146.7 net kilograms of pure methamphetamine and 4.875 net kilograms of cocaine in a false bed in the trailer that he was hauling.

Based on my training and experience, I believe that Silva was coordinating the pick-up of the narcotics between Mandonado and their co-conspirators in Mexico. I believe she was asking Mandonado for information so that she could relay the information to the co-conspirators in Mexico. I also believe that Silva was telling Mandonado that the co-conspirators in Mexico who had the methamphetamine and cocaine had changed the location of the pick-up and were directing Silva to go to a different location. When Silva sent the Google Maps location, I believe that Silva had received the location from the co-conspirators in Mexico and was forwarding the pick-up location to Mandonado. I also believe Silva asked Mandonado about when he would be ready so she could relay the information to the co-conspirators with the drugs. Additionally, I believe Silva was giving directions to Mandonado on what to say to the co-conspirators if they asked where Silva was. Therefore, I believe that Silva was supposed to be present to pick-up the drugs. Based on the messages, I believe that Silva was in direct communication with the source of supply in Mexico and that she is responsible for picking up and delivering the methamphetamine and cocaine, and that she was portraying to the co-conspirators that she was with Mandonado. Finally, I believe the text message indicates that Silva has been present with Mandonado to pick-up the drugs in Mexico on previous occasions.

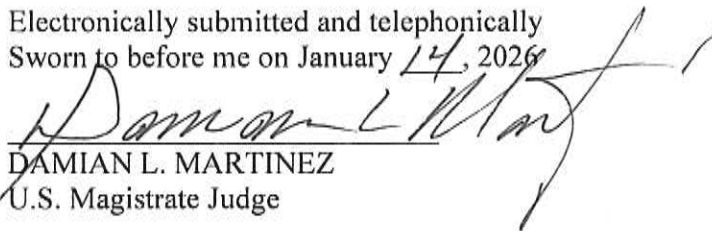
Based on the above, there is probable cause to believe that, between November 2023 and July 2025, in the District of New Mexico, Ebajelina Silva and Tania Maldonado conspired with each other, and with Mandonado and others, to distribute 50 grams and more of methamphetamine and 500 grams and more of cocaine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §846, and conspired to commit international money laundering, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h)

AUSA Renee Camacho authorized the case for federal prosecution against Ebajelina Silva and Tania Maldonado.



Chandler Rule
DEA Special Agent

Electronically submitted and telephonically
Sworn to before me on January 14, 2026



DAMIAN L. MARTINEZ
U.S. Magistrate Judge

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the
District of New Mexico

United States of America
v.
Ebajelina Silva

Case No. 26-MJ-149

Defendant

ARREST WARRANT

To: Any authorized law enforcement officer

YOU ARE COMMANDED to arrest and bring before a United States magistrate judge without unnecessary delay

(name of person to be arrested) Ebajelina Silva

who is accused of an offense or violation based on the following document filed with the court:

- Indictment Superseding Indictment Information Superseding Information Complaint
- Probation Violation Petition Supervised Release Violation Petition Violation Notice Order of the Court

This offense is briefly described as follows:

21 U.S.C. §846 - Conspiracy to distribute 50 grams and more of methamphetamine and 50 grams and more of cocaine;
and,

18 U.S.C. § 1956(h) - Conspiracy to commit international money laundering.

Date: 14 Jan 2026


Issuing officer's signature

City and state: Las Cruces, New Mexico

Damian L. Martinez, U.S. Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

Return

This warrant was received on (date) _____, and the person was arrested on (date) _____
at (city and state) _____.

Date: _____

Arresting officer's signature

Printed name and title

This second page contains personal identifiers provided for law-enforcement use only and therefore should not be filed in court with the executed warrant unless under seal.

(Not for Public Disclosure)

Name of defendant/offender: Ebajelina Silva

Known aliases: Ebjelina Silva

Last known residence: 7606 Quay St., Arvada, CO 80003

Prior addresses to which defendant/offender may still have ties: _____

Last known employment: Unknown

Last known telephone numbers: _____

Place of birth: USA

Date of birth: 09/25/1984

Social Security number: 604-72-1670

Height: 5'02" Weight: 160

Sex: Female Race: White

Hair: BLK Eyes: Brown

Scars, tattoos, other distinguishing marks: _____

History of violence, weapons, drug use: _____

Known family, friends, and other associates (name, relation, address, phone number): Unknown

FBI number: _____

Complete description of auto: _____

Investigative agency and address: DEA Las Cruces District Office 2290 E. Griggs Ave., Las Cruces, NM 88001.

Name and telephone numbers (office and cell) of pretrial services or probation officer (if applicable): SA Chandler Rule, 915-892-4613 (cell) and 575-526-0700 (office)

Date of last contact with pretrial services or probation officer (if applicable): N/A

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the
District of New Mexico

United States of America
v.
Tania Maldonado

Case No. 26 MJ 149

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Defendant

ARREST WARRANT

To: Any authorized law enforcement officer

YOU ARE COMMANDED to arrest and bring before a United States magistrate judge without unnecessary delay
(name of person to be arrested) Tania Maldonado,
who is accused of an offense or violation based on the following document filed with the court:

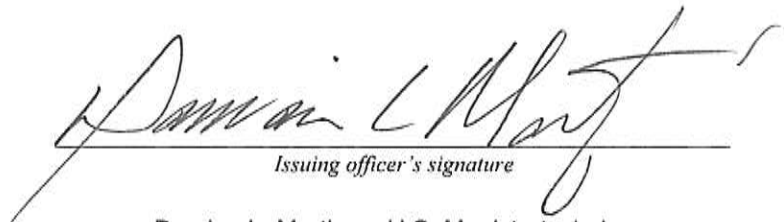
- Indictment Superseding Indictment Information Superseding Information Complaint
- Probation Violation Petition Supervised Release Violation Petition Violation Notice Order of the Court

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and,

18 U.S.C. § 1956(h) - Conspiracy to commit international money laundering.

Date: 14 Jan 2026



Issuing officer's signature

City and state: Las Cruces, New Mexico

Damian L. Martinez, U.S. Magistrate Judge
Printed name and title

Return

This warrant was received on (date) _____, and the person was arrested on (date) _____
at (city and state) _____.

Date: _____

Arresting officer's signature

Printed name and title

**This second page contains personal identifiers provided for law-enforcement use only
and therefore should not be filed in court with the executed warrant unless under seal.**

(Not for Public Disclosure)

Name of defendant/offender: Tania Maldonado

Known aliases: _____

Last known residence: 3400 S Lowell Blvd., Apt 10-103, Denver, CO

Prior addresses to which defendant/offender may still have ties: _____

Last known employment: Unknown

Last known telephone numbers: _____

Place of birth: USA

Date of birth: 01/02/1984

Social Security number: 523-61-2901

Height: 5'07" Weight: 200

Sex: Female Race: White

Hair: Bro Eyes: Brown

Scars, tattoos, other distinguishing marks: _____

History of violence, weapons, drug use: _____

Known family, friends, and other associates (name, relation, address, phone number): Unknown

FBI number: _____

Complete description of auto: _____

Investigative agency and address: DEA Las Cruces District Office 2290 E. Griggs Ave., Las Cruces, NM 88001.

Name and telephone numbers (office and cell) of pretrial services or probation officer (if applicable):
SA Chandler Rule, 915-892-4613 (cell) and 575-526-0700 (office)

Date of last contact with pretrial services or probation officer (if applicable): N/A