

FILED

United States District Court
 for the
 District of New Mexico

Mitchell R. Elfers
 Clerk of Court

United States of America
 v.

Lucas Maldonado,
 aka "Rukus"

Case No. **26mj1795**

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 March 26, 2026 in the county of Bernalillo in the
District of New Mexico, the defendant(s) violated:

Code Section

Offense Description

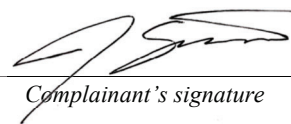
21 U.S.C. §§ 846, 21 U.S.C. §§ 841
 (a)(1) and (b)(1)(A), 841(a)(1) and
 (b)(1)(B), 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(C),
 18 U.S.C. §§ 924(c)(1)(A)(i), and
 922(g)(1) and 924

Conspiracy to Distribute 500 Grams and More of a Mixture and Substance
 Containing Methamphetamine; Distribution of 500 Grams and More of a
 Mixture and Substance Containing Methamphetamine; Possession with
 Intent to Distribute 40 Grams and More of a Mixture and Substance
 Containing Fentanyl; Possession with Intent to Distribute a Mixture and
 Substance Containing Methamphetamine; Possessing a Firearm in
 Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime; and Possession of a Firearm and
 Ammunition by a Convicted Felon.

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See attached affidavit.

☒ Continued on the attached sheet.


 Complainant's signature

Jordan Spaeth, FBI Special Agent

Printed name and title

Subscribed electronically and sworn to telephonically.

Date: April 14, 2026

City and state: Albuquerque, New Mexico


 Judge's signature

Karen B. Molzen, US Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

No. _____

LUCAS MALDONADO, aka "RUKUS,"

Defendant.

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF ARREST WARRANT AND CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, Jordan Spaeth, being first duly sworn, hereby depose and state as follows:

INTRODUCTION AND AGENT BACKGROUND

1. I am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") and have been a sworn law enforcement officer for 17 years, serving first as a police officer and then as an FBI Special Agent. I have been with the FBI since 2018 and am currently assigned to the Albuquerque, New Mexico field office, to the Violent Gang Task Force ("VGTF"). As a member of the VGTF my primary responsibility is to investigate criminal enterprises involving violent repeat offenders, gang members, and associates who participate in violations of the Controlled Substances Act, firearms violations, murder, racketeering, and other violations of federal law. Prior to my current assignment, I was assigned to the Violent Crime Task Force and also investigated violent felony crimes which were committed on the multiple Indian Reservations surrounding Albuquerque.

2. My investigative training and experience includes, but is not limited to, interviewing subjects, targets, and witnesses; writing affidavits for, and executing search and arrest warrants; collecting evidence; conducting surveillance; and analyzing public records. Over the course of my career, I have arrested hundreds of persons for offenses relating to armed robberies, firearm violations, bank robberies, illegal narcotics, and other criminal conduct. I have also been responsible for serving

subpoenas and supervising cooperating sources, as well as analyzing phone records.

3. I make this Affidavit in support of the arrest of LUCAS MALDONADO, aka “RUKUS,” (“MALDONADO”) for violations of:

- a. 21 U.S.C. §§ 846: Conspiracy to Distribute 500 Grams and More of a Mixture and Substance Containing Methamphetamine;
- b. 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(A): Distribution of 500 Grams and More of a Mixture and Substance Containing Methamphetamine;
- c. 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(B): Possession with Intent to Distribute 40 Grams and More of a Mixture and Substance Containing Fentanyl;
- d. 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(C): Possession with Intent to Distribute a Mixture and Substance Containing Methamphetamine;
- e. 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1)(A)(i): Possessing a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime; and
- f. 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(1) and 924: Possession of a Firearm and Ammunition by a Convicted Felon.

4. The statements contained in this Affidavit are based upon my investigation, training and experience, and information provided by other law enforcement officers or from other reliable sources. Because this Affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of securing a criminal complaint, I have not included each and every fact known to me concerning this investigation. I have set forth only the facts which I believe are necessary to establish probable cause to support a criminal complaint against MALDONADO.

THE TARGET SUBJECT

5. Upon reviewing the New Mexico online secure court case information, I believe

MALDONADO has several felony convictions, which prevent him from possessing a firearm, including:

- a. Felon in Possession of a Firearm and Ammunition, on June 10, 2015, in the United States District Court, District of New Mexico, Case No. 1:14CR04061-001-JB.
- b. Conspiracy Burglary of a Dwelling, on September 26, 2007, in the Bernalillo County District Court, Case No. D-202-CR-2007-04575; and
- c. Aggravated Battery (Great Bodily Harm), False Imprisonment, and Criminal Damage to Property (More than \$1,000), on February 25, 2005, in the Bernalillo County District Court, Case No. D-202-CR-2005-01140.

SUMMARY OF PROBABLE CAUSE

6. During the spring of 2026, Albuquerque Police Department (“APD”) Detectives and Undercover Officers (“UC”) conducted several controlled drug buys from MONIQUE CENICEROS. During mid-March 2026, CENICEROS agreed to get 5 pounds of methamphetamine for an APD UC. Due to the previous controlled drug buys and in anticipation of the 5 pound methamphetamine deal, an arrest warrant was obtained on CENICEROS for the previous UC drug deals, Bernalillo Metropolitan Case No. T-4-FR-2026-002753. Detectives planned a “buy bust” operation, which is when law enforcement coordinate a controlled drug purchase and subsequently arrest the drug dealer before, during, or after the deal is complete.

7. On March 26, 2026, at approximately 1044 hours, UC contacted CENICEROS, who advised UC that the drug supplier (later identified as LUCAS MALDONADO, aka “RUKUS”) wanted to meet in the area of San Mateo Blvd SE and Zuni Rd SE. UC drove CENICEROS, in an unmarked police vehicle, to Autozone, located at 5555 Zuni Rd SE, Albuquerque, NM 87108. Shortly thereafter, they parked next to MALDONADO and his 10-year-old son, who were in his GMC pickup truck. Detectives later learned that the truck was registered to MALDONADO.

8. CENICEROS advised the UC that MALDONADO was the drug supplier as she asked UC for a bag to carry the methamphetamine. The UC provided her with a white backpack.

9. CENICEROS exited the UC vehicle and entered the front passenger seat of MALDONADO's truck. After a short time, she returned to the UC vehicle carrying the white backpack and handed the backpack to the UC. Inside the backpack were several clear plastic bags which contained a clear crystal substance. The UC then provided CENICEROS with \$7,000 in pre-recorded buy money. She exited the UC vehicle and returned to MALDONADO's truck, where she remained for several minutes.

10. CENICEROS then returned to the UC vehicle and they departed the area. Detectives maintained surveillance on MALDONADO as he left the area. CENICEROS advised the UC that MALDONADO had brought his 10-year-old son to the drug deal, and the child had asked if he could assist in counting the money. Detectives subsequently arrested CENICEROS, who was in possession of \$500, which was from the pre-recorded buy money.

11. Detectives followed MALDONADO to a residence, where he went inside briefly with the child, then exited with a black bag. MALDONADO then went to a restaurant and returned to his truck shortly thereafter. Officers conducted a traffic stop on MALDONADO in the area of 1901 University Blvd SE, where he was taken into custody without incident. He was charged in the State of New Mexico with Trafficking Controlled Substances, Conspiracy, and Abuse of a Child (Bernalillo Metropolitan Case Number T-4-FR-2026-002766). Detectives sealed and towed the vehicle, then applied for a search warrant.

12. The clear crystal substance was placed into APD evidence, weighed approximately 4.9 pounds/2247 grams, and field-tested positive for methamphetamine.

13. On March 27, 2026, Detectives executed a search warrant on MALDONADO's vehicle,

(Bernalillo Metropolitan Case Number T-4-FR-2026-002858). Pursuant to the search warrant, Detectives searched the vehicle and located several firearms, drugs, cash, drug paraphernalia, and several documents bearing MALDONADO's name. Detectives seized the following items, all drugs field tested positive and all amounts are approximate:

- a. 69.7 grams of fentanyl pills,
- b. 79 grams of fentanyl powder,
- c. 32.2 grams of methamphetamine,
- d. Glock 30, 45 caliber pistol with 10 rounds,
- e. Glock 43, 9mm pistol (STOLEN, APD Case No. 250060876),
- f. Springfield XD40, 40 caliber pistol with 10 rounds,
- g. Glass smoking device and a straw,
- h. Digital scale,
- i. \$11,000 in US Currency (\$6,500 of which was the pre-recorded buy money),
- j. Plastic baggies, and
- k. Cell phone.

14. I am familiar with drug trafficking and the common methods of drug trafficking. Based on my training and experience, the amounts of controlled substances located in MALDONADO's vehicle combined with the facts that he had already sold drugs that day and that there were firearms, a digital scale, cash, and plastic baggies in the vehicle with the controlled substances, I believe MALDONADO intended to distribute the drugs that were located in his vehicle. Based on my training and experience, I know that firearms are commonly used by drug traffickers to protect their drug supply and illegal proceeds gained from trafficking drugs, to protect them from rival drug dealers, gang members, and even law enforcement.

INTERSTATE NEXUS

15. I am familiar with the firearms seized from MALDONADO's vehicle. The firearms meet the federal definition of a firearm and ammunition pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 921. Based on my training, research, and experience I am aware that the firearms listed above are not manufactured in the state of New Mexico and therefore traveled in interstate commerce before they were possessed by MALDONADO.

CONCLUSION

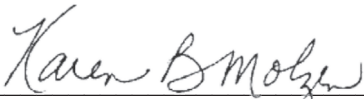
16. Based on the above information, I believe there is probable cause that MALDONADO violated 21 U.S.C. § 846; 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(A), (B), and (C); 18 U.S.C. §§ 924(c)(1)(A)(i); and 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(1) and 924. This affidavit has been reviewed and approved by Assistant United States Attorney Nora Wilson. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Respectfully submitted,



Jordan Spaeth
Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sworn telephonically to me and signed electronically
on April 14, 2026:



HONORABLE KAREN B. MOLZEN
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO