

For Immediate Release
April 13, 2011

**JURY FINDS JAMAICAN NATIONAL GUILTY OF
FEDERAL MARIJUANA TRAFFICKING OFFENSE**

ALBUQUERQUE – This afternoon in federal court in Albuquerque, a jury convicted **Norman Washington Berry**, a 39-year-old Jamaican citizen, of a marijuana trafficking offense after a three-day trial. At sentencing, which has yet to be scheduled, Berry faces a mandatory minimum five-year term of imprisonment and a maximum of 40 years of imprisonment.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Berry was arrested on May 23, 2007 and charged in a criminal complaint alleging a marijuana trafficking offense. On May 25, 2007, Berry was released under pretrial supervision pending trial. A federal grand jury indicted Berry on June 13, 2007, charging him with possession of more than 100 kilograms of marijuana with intent to distribute. Court records reflect that proceedings in the case were stayed beginning in May 2008, when Berry fled the United States. Proceedings resumed in November 2010, when Berry was returned to the United States after waiving formal extradition from in Canada. Berry has been in federal custody since that time.

The trial evidence established that, on May 23, 2007, Berry drove a refrigerated tractor-trailer into the Gallup Port of Entry located around mile marker 12 on Eastbound I-40. When Berry drove up to the credential booth, he was greeted by an officer of the New Mexico Motor Transportation Police Division, New Mexico Department of Public Safety Department. In response to the officer's questions about his cargo and route of travel, Berry presented his driver logbook reflecting that Berry was hauling a cargo of cantaloupes. After noting a number of discrepancies in the logbook, the officer directed Berry into the inspection bay for a more complete inspection and cargo check. During his inspection, the officer noticed several UPS

boxes not listed in the bill of lading. In response to the officer's questions, Berry said the boxes were his and contained kitchen items. When the officer opened one of the UPS boxes, he found a green-leafy substance that later tested positive for marijuana. With the assistance of a colleague, the officer unloaded eight large UPS boxes containing 33 bundles of marijuana weighing an aggregate of 175 kilograms (381 pounds).

The jury deliberated for approximately four hours before returning its verdict.

The case was investigated by the New Mexico Motor Transportation Police Division of New Mexico Department of Public Safety, and the Drug Enforcement Administration. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Joel R. Meyers and Linda Mott.

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11-158