

For Immediate Release  
April 28, 2011

**EL PASO MAN SENTENCED TO 27 MONTHS IN PRISON**  
**ON FEDERAL COCAINE CONVICTION**

***Defendant was Arrested with Cocaine on Los Paisanos Bus at  
Border Patrol Checkpoint Near Alamogordo, New Mexico***

LAS CRUCES – On April 27, 2011, in federal court in Las Cruces, **Juan Manuel Gallegos**, 19, was sentenced to 27 months in prison for possession of cocaine with the intent to distribute. Gallegos, a resident of El Paso, Texas, will serve a three-year term of supervised release after he completes his prison sentence.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that the charge against Gallegos stemmed from his arrest at a U.S. Border Patrol checkpoint in Otero County, New Mexico on August 18, 2010. Court records reflect that Gallegos admitted he was a passenger on a Los Paisanos bus that was inspected by Border Patrol agents at the Highway 54 checkpoint near Alamogordo, New Mexico. During the inspection, agents found 745 grams of cocaine concealed in a pillow Gallegos was carrying. Gallegos also admitted he was being paid \$3,000 to transport the cocaine from El Paso, Texas to Dodge City, Kansas.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the United States Border Patrol and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Aaron O. Jordan.

###

11-192