

For Immediate Release
June 24, 2011

**ARIZONA MAN SENTENCED TO 135-MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT FOR
FEDERAL METHAMPHETAMINE TRAFFICKING CONVICTION**

ALBUQUERQUE – On June 23, 2011, in federal court in Albuquerque, **Eder Zazueta**, 23, of Phoenix, Arizona, was sentenced to a 135-month term of imprisonment to be followed by five years of supervised release for his conviction on methamphetamine trafficking offenses. Zazueta, who has been in federal custody since his arrest on July 8, 2009, entered a guilty plea to a two-count indictment charging him and two co-defendants with (1) conspiracy to possess methamphetamine with intent to distribute, and (2) possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, on February 3, 2011.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Zazueta and his co-defendants, Phoenix-residents **Carlos Diaz-Ortega**, 29, and **Jesus Barboa-Cecena**, 48, were arrested after an officer of the New Mexico Department of Public Safety Motor Transportation Division (NMDPS-MTD) executed a traffic stop of the vehicle in which the three men were traveling and found more than two kilograms of methamphetamine concealed in the vehicle. According to the criminal complaint, on the morning of July 8, 2009, an NMDPS-MTD officer executed a traffic stop of the defendants' vehicle in the vicinity of mile marker 454 on northbound Interstate 25 near Raton, New Mexico, and cited Zazueta for following too closely. Based on the nervous behavior of the men, the officer requested and obtained consent to search the vehicle. During his search of the vehicle, the officer observed tooling marks on screws in the right rear cargo area of the vehicle as well as on the bolts securing the vehicle's quarter panels and the screws on the molding by the windshield wipers. Shortly thereafter, the officer located two packages in the rear quarter panel of the vehicle. The substance in the packages tested positive for

methamphetamine and weighed approximately 2.1 kilograms.

Co-defendants Diaz-Ortega and Barboa-Cecena each entered guilty pleas to both counts of the indictment on January 24, 2011 and are scheduled to be sentenced on August 11, 2011.

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the NMDPS-MTD, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nicholas J. Ganjei.

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