

For Immediate Release
July 22, 2011

**TWO MEN RECEIVE TEN YEAR SENTENCES FOR FEDERAL
METHAMPHETAMINE AND FIREARMS CONVICTIONS**

ALBUQUERQUE – Yesterday in federal court in Albuquerque, **Pedro Portillo**, a 27-year-old citizen of Mexico, and **Fernando Orozco**, a 23-year-old resident of Albuquerque, each were sentenced to 10 year prison terms for their convictions on federal methamphetamine and firearms charges. Orozco will be on supervised release for 4 years following his release from prison, while Portillo will be deported after he completes his prison sentence. Both men have been in federal custody since their arrests on September 15, 2010.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that, on April 12, 2011 Portillo and Orozco each pleaded guilty to an information charging him with (1) possession of more than five grams of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, and (2) using a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime.

Cour records reflect that, on September 14, 2010, an undercover agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) had a telephone conversation with Portillo during which he negotiated the purchase of two pounds of methamphetamine for \$32,000. Thereafter, the undercover met Portillo, who was the passenger in a vehicle driven by Orozco, in the parking lot of the Santa Ana Casino to complete the transaction. After the undercover agent examined the contents of a tape-wrapped package handed to him by Portillo, the undercover agent gave a pre-arranged arrest signal and DEA agents arrested Portillo and Orozco without incident. Following the arrests, a handgun was discovered under the passenger seat of the vehicle driven by Orozco. Subsequent laboratory testing revealed that the substance in the package contained methamphetamine.

The case was investigated by the DEA and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kimberly A. Brawley.

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