

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## ***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Karen P. Hewitt***

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***For Immediate Release***

### **NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY** - February 11, 2008

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced the guilty plea and sentence today of Hector Jesus Palma-Salazar, a Mexican national who was extradited from the Republic of Mexico to the United States to face drug trafficking charges. Defendant Palma-Salazar pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute cocaine. The Honorable Larry A. Burns sentenced Palma-Salazar to serve 192 months in custody and 5 years of supervised release and imposed a \$100 special assessment. Palma-Salazar will be deported upon completion of his prison term.

On January 19, 2007, the Republic of Mexico extradited Palma-Salazar to the United States to face the charge that he had conspired with others in distribute cocaine in 1995. Prior to his extradition, Palma-Salazar served twelve years in Mexican custody following his conviction on bribery and weapons charges. Due to his drug trafficking activities, Palma-Salazar had been designated as a “drug kingpin” by the federal government.

U.S. Attorney Karen P. Hewitt heralded the successful prosecution of Palma-Salazar as the most recent example of the ongoing cooperation between the Government of Mexico and the United States to fight the scourge of drug trafficking on both sides of the border.

DEA Special Agent in Charge Ralph Partridge said, “Today’s sentencing sends a clear and concise message not only to one of the most violent drug lords but to all cartel members. Hector “El Guero” Palma Salazar, one of the largest and most ruthless cartel figures in all of Mexico, was delivered to the front lines of the war on drugs and will now go to a place worthy of a drug trafficker like himself, federal prison.”

**DEFENDANT**

**Case Number: 95cr2153-LAB**

Hector Jesus Palma-Salazar

**SUMMARY OF CHARGE**

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(1)(1) and 846 - Conspiracy to distribute cocaine

**AGENCY**

Drug Enforcement Administration