



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 30, 2008

Shana Jones, Special Assistant
Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer
(210) 384-7440

**TRANSCRIBED AUDIO STATEMENT OF U.S. ATTORNEY JOHNNY SUTTON
REGARDING THE INDICTMENT OF 23 MEXICAN MAFIA MEMBERS**

“This is Johnny Sutton. I’m the United States Attorney for the Western District of Texas. Yesterday a federal grand jury in San Antonio indicted 23 members of the violent prison gang known as the Mexican Mafia. So far 18 members of that gang are in custody and we are trying to arrest the other five. The Mexican Mafia is a violent group of ex-cons who deal in intimidation, violence and murder.

As a part of this case we have charged 22 murders that these gang members are responsible for. These gang members through intimidation and violence sell heroin and cocaine in the San Antonio community. This case will send a strong message that there is going to be a high price to be paid for selling cocaine and heroin to our children - that there’s going to be a high price to be paid for operating a criminal gang that deals with intimidation, violence and murder and that price will be many, many years in federal prison.

All of these defendants are facing up to life in federal prison and my office has been dedicated to prosecuting the Mexican Mafia for many years. Since 2004, the United States Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Texas has put over 130 members of the Mexican Mafia in federal prison. Today is the first step in putting 23 more of those criminals in prison. Today’s battle is ongoing. Today’s indictment takes a significant chunk out of the Mexican Mafia leadership in San Antonio, but this battle will be ongoing and we intend to fight it until this scourge is removed from our community.”