



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Deborah J. Rhodes  
Southern District of Alabama

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MARCH 4, 2008  
WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/ALS

CONTACT: TOMMY LOFTIS  
PHONE: (251) 415-7131  
FAX: (251) 441-5277

## MAN SENTENCED FOR DRUG CONSPIRACY

MOBILE, Ala. - Manuel Hurtado-Fernandez, 29, of Mexico, was sentenced today in federal court to a term of 135 months for his participation in a methamphetamine distribution scheme. Hurtado was identified as a source of supply for the drugs, which were sold to an undercover Baldwin County sheriff's deputy who was posing as a drug dealer. In a series of undercover buys, Baldwin County sheriff's investigators recovered approximately 9 ounces of methamphetamine. Although Hurtado has lived illegally in the United States for the past several years, he was identified by the police when an informant told them that he had a prior arrest for domestic violence in Mobile. Jail booking records provided investigators with identifying information on him.

Court records also reflect that Hurtado and his wife Liliana Fuentez-Diaz traveled to the undercover drug deals with their minor children in their vehicle. When Hurtado and Fuentez were arrested on federal charges, federal officers participating in the investigation recovered approximately 2 more pounds of methamphetamine in the execution of a search warrant at Hurtado's apartment in Mobile, where one minor child was found alone in the apartment with the drugs. Fuentez also pled guilty to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, and her sentencing is set for March 27.

Judge Callie V. S. Granade imposed the 135 month sentence this afternoon, and ordered that Hurtado be turned over to immigration officials for deportation consideration following the completion of his sentence.

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration's HIDTA Task Force and the Baldwin County Sheriff's Office. It was prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office in Mobile.