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GRAND JURY RETURNS INDICTMENTS

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that ten individuals were indicted on February 5, 2004, by a federal grand jury in Kansas City, Kansas. Those indicted include:

- ! **Farooq A. Essa**, 55, currently of Orange Port, Florida, previously of Olathe, Kansas, is charged with four counts of filing fraudulent income tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service.

The indictment alleges that Essa willfully failed to report \$43,334 in income on his 1997 income tax return; \$55,870 in income on his 1998 income tax return; \$112,814 in income on his 1999 income tax return; and \$118,573 in income on his 2000 income tax return.

If convicted, Essa faces a maximum of three years in federal prison, without parole, on each count. The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Marietta Parker.

- ! **Imre Furedi**, 65, Junction City, Kansas, is charged with one count of possessing child pornography obtained from the internet on May 6, 2003, in Leavenworth County, Kansas.

If convicted, Furedi faces a maximum of five years in federal prison without parole. The case was investigated by the FBI and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kim Berger.

- ! **Douglas Goss**, 32, Leavenworth, Kansas, is charged with one count of possessing child pornography obtained from the internet on March 12, 2003, in Leavenworth County, Kansas.

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If convicted, Goss faces a maximum of five years in federal prison without parole. The case was investigated by the FBI and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kim Berger.

- ! **Michael Hussey**, 38, and **George Cannon**, 45, both from Kansas City, Kansas, both currently in custody, are each charged with one count of robbing the Taco John's restaurant in Lawrence, Kansas, on December 26, 2003. Hussey is also charged with one count of brandishing a firearm during the robbery of the Taco John's restaurant on December 26, 2003, and one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Cannon is also charged with one count of brandishing a firearm during the robbery of the Taco John's restaurant on December 26, 2003, and one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

If convicted, each face a maximum of twenty years in federal prison, without parole, for robbery; a minimum of seven years and a maximum of life for brandishing a firearm during a robbery; and a maximum of ten years for being a felon in possession of a firearm. The case was investigated by the Lawrence Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Leon Patton.

- ! **Alejandro Salazar**, 24, Kansas City, Kansas, currently in custody, is charged with two counts of distributing cocaine on October 16, 2003, and October 29, 2003, and two counts of distributing more than 50 grams (more than 1.76 ounces) of methamphetamine on December 1, 2003, and December 17, 2003, in Kansas City, Kansas.

If convicted, Salazar faces a maximum of twenty years in federal prison, without parole, for each count of distributing cocaine; a minimum of ten years and a maximum of life for the one count of distributing methamphetamine; and a minimum of five years and a maximum of forty years on the second count of distributing methamphetamine. The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Leon Patton.

- ! **Eduardo Regalado**, 28, **Gustavo Rocha**, 29, **Geronimo Rocha**, 23, all from Kansas City, Kansas, all currently in custody, are each charged with one count of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute five kilograms or more (11 pounds or more) of cocaine from January 29, 2004 through February 1, 2004, in Wyandotte County, Kansas. Gustavo Rocha is also charged with two counts of possession with the intent to distribute 500 grams or more (1.1 pounds or more) of cocaine on January 31, 2004. Geronimo Rocha is also charged with one count of possession with the intent to distribute 500 grams or more (1.1 pounds or more) of cocaine on January 31, 2004. Eduardo Regalado is also charged with one count of possession with the intent to distribute 5 kilograms or more (11 pounds or more) of cocaine on January 31, 2004.

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If convicted, each face a minimum of ten years and a maximum of life in federal prison,

without parole, for conspiracy to possession with the intent to distribute cocaine. Gustavo Rocha also faces a minimum of five years and a maximum of forty years on each count of possession with the intent to distribute cocaine. Geronimo Rocha also faces a minimum of five years and a maximum of forty years for possession with the intent to distribute cocaine. Eduardo Regalado also faces a minimum of ten years and a maximum of life for possession with the intent to distribute cocaine. The case was investigated by the FBI and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kim Berger.

! **Ronald Kendricks**, 24, Parsons, Kansas, currently in custody, is charged with one count of distributing crack cocaine on October 29, 2002, in Parsons, Kansas.

If convicted, Kendricks faces a maximum of twenty years in federal prison without parole. The case was investigated by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Parsons Police Department, Labette County Sheriff's Department, Kansas Highway Patrol, Coffeyville Police Department, Joplin Police Department, Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Rask.

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The Indictments filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.