



Department of Justice

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MEMBERS OF "KILLING EVERY SPOT" STREET GANG SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON

GAINESVILLE, GA - DAVID RAMIREZ, 24; CARLOS ALVARADO-CASTILLO, 22; ADAM CRUZ, 24; RENE ANTONIO ORTIZ-PENADO, 22; and JUAN RAMIREZ, 28, all of Gainesville, were sentenced today by United States District Judge Richard W. Story on charges of violating the federal Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) statute by operating the criminal street gang "Killing Every Spot." ("KES"). JUAN RAMIREZ was also sentenced for discharging a firearm in the commission of a violent felony.

Also sentenced was IGNACIO CHAVEZ-OLIVAREZ, 42, of Gainesville, for possession of methamphetamine with the intent to distribute.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said of the conviction and sentences, "The KES gang was a menace to Gainesville and the entire Hall County area. We are proud to have worked with city, county and federal investigators to dismantle the gang and take its key members off the streets."

DAVID RAMIREZ was sentenced to 11 years, three months, in prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release. RAMIREZ was convicted of these charges on March 24, 2006.

CARLOS ALVARADO-CASTILLO was sentenced to 5 years, 3 months in prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release. ALVARADO was convicted of these charges on March 10, 2006.

ADAM CRUZ was sentenced to 2 years, 9 months in prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release. Cruz was convicted of these charges on March 24, 2006.

RENE ANTONIO ORTIZ-PENADO was sentenced to 4 years, 9 months in prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release. Ortiz was convicted of these charges on March 10, 2006.

JUAN RAMIREZ was sentenced to 12 years, 9 months in prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release. Ramirez was convicted of these charges on March 10, 2006.

IGNACIO CHAVEZ-OLIVAREZ was sentenced to 4 years, 3 months in prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release. Chavez was convicted of these charges on March 10, 2006.

According to Nahmias and the information and evidence presented in court: The street gang "Killing Every Spot," (KES) was formed in late 1998. DAVID RAMIREZ was the recognized leader of KES. KES allied itself with a larger street gang, "18th Street," and members of the two gangs joined forces in Gainesville against members of other gangs. Many of the offenses committed in furtherance of the conspiracy resulted from this gang warfare.

Hall County Sheriff Steve Cronic, whose Gang Task Force agents, along with agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), conducted the investigation leading to this case, said his department is pleased with the outcome of the case. Cronic noted that he believes that, "the community was well served by the success of this case." City of Gainesville Police Chief Frank Hooper, whose detectives are also assigned to the Gang Task Force, applauded the resolution of this case, saying, "This successful outcome is the result of a high degree of cooperation between federal, state and local law enforcement." Both Cronic and Hooper said that they anticipated further joint investigations of the gang activity in Gainesville and Hall County.

Assistant United States Attorney H. Allen Moye and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas W. Hayes, of the Prosecuting Attorneys Council of Georgia, prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney or Yonette Sam-Buchanan, Chief, Terrorism, Violent Crimes and Firearms Unit, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.