



# Department of Justice

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## **NEW DEFENDANT INDICTED IN "SUPERLAB"** **METHAMPHETAMINE CASE**

Atlanta, GA - ALFREDO SANTIAGO MORENO, a/k/a "Chago," 35, of Tepalcatepec, Mexico, has been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges related to the manufacturing of methamphetamine and the operation of the meth "superlab" that DEA seized and dismantled in February 2005. The superlab, located at 200 Church Road in Smyrna, Georgia, was the first superlab discovered in Georgia and one of only a few discovered on the East Coast. MORENO is scheduled for an arraignment and bond hearing on Thursday, November 10, 2006.

"This arrest shows that law enforcement will not be satisfied simply with shutting down drug factories and prosecuting the low-level drug dealers who happen to be on the scene," said United States Attorney David E. Nahmias. "We will keep investigating to try to identify, arrest, prosecute, and punish the leaders of the organizations that make and distribute this dangerous poison in our community."

According to United States Attorney David E. Nahmias and the documents and information presented in court: On November 3, 2006, DEA agents arrested ALFREDO SANTIAGO MORENO, also known as "Chago," in the continuing investigation of the superlab case. MORENO, an illegal alien originally from Tepalcatepec, Mexico, is alleged to have been the ringleader in Atlanta who obtained the residence, coordinated the purchase of materials used in the manufacturing process, and coordinated the manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine "cooked" at the superlab between November 2004 and February 2005. When DEA agents seized the lab, in addition to manufacturing equipment, chemicals, and methamphetamine in various stages of production, agents seized over 11 kilograms (24 pounds) of 94% pure methamphetamine.

Court records also show that, once the agents entered the residence, they immediately discovered the unusual size and capacity of the lab. Inside the basement of the residence, the agents found an array of equipment set up for the manufacturing of methamphetamine and reprocessing of the methamphetamine into its more potent and addictive form, ice methamphetamine.

The agents also found 24 large trash bags stuffed with emptied pseudoephedrine tablet boxes, as well as containers holding approximately 35 pounds of pure d-pseudoephedrine hydrochloride, court records show. According to evidence presented during the prosecution of the three defendants arrested at the superlab, the pure pseudoephedrine appeared to have been extracted from the tablets in the empty boxes, yielding one of the final precursors in the meth manufacturing process. The 35 pounds of pseudoephedrine seized in the basement would yield another 20 to 30 pounds of pure methamphetamine. Finally, the agents discovered five 55-gallon containers holding what a lab expert identified to be the liquid byproduct of the methamphetamine manufacturing process.

The indictment charges four counts: (1) conspiring to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine; (2) manufacturing methamphetamine; (3) possession of methamphetamine with the intent to distribute; and (4) maintaining a residence for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine. These charges carry a statutory minimum penalty of 10 years, a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, and a fine of up to \$4,000,000.

On October 17, 2006, two defendants convicted of operating the superlab were sentenced to federal prison. IGNACIO CORTES-VALENCIA, 24, of Michoacan, Mexico was sentenced to 21 years, 10 months imprisonment. GUSTAVO LARA-MURILLO, 31, of Colima, Mexico, was sentenced to 17 years, 6 months imprisonment. The remaining defendant, RAMON OSEGUERA-ALANIS, 34, of Michoacan, Mexico, will be sentenced at a later date.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of the DEA, the U.S. Marshal's Service, the MCS (Marietta, Cobb, Smyrna) Drug Task Force, and the DeKalb County Police Department.

Assistant United States Attorney Richard Rice is prosecuting the case.

Members of the public are reminded that the indictment contains only allegations. A defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Atlanta recommends parents and children learn about the dangers of drugs at the following web site: [www.justthinktwice.com](http://www.justthinktwice.com).

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, 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](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan).