

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

---

---



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Karen P. Hewitt***

---

---

***For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael J. Crowley (619) 557-5733***

---

---

***For Immediate Release***

## **NORTH COUNTY GANG MEMBERS CHARGED IN FEDERAL COMPLAINTS**

### **NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - October 10, 2008**

San Diego, CA - Eight federal complaints charging twelve individuals, many of whom are members and associates of the Varrio Posole Locos street gang in Oceanside, California, with various federal crimes, United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced today.

The complaints arise out a three-year investigation by the North County Regional Gang Task Force into crimes allegedly committed by Varrio Posole Locos members and associates. The illegal activities committed include the purchase, theft, and possession of multiple firearms by convicted felons; the robbery of a heroin dealer that resulted in the heroin dealer being forced from a moving vehicle; conspiracies to distribute heroin within two state correctional facilities (the Vista Detention Facility in Vista, California, and Ironwood State Prison in Blythe, California); and the sale of methamphetamine and heroin on the street. In addition, during the

course of the investigation, officers and agents seized 26 firearms and over 10,000 rounds of ammunition in the Oceanside area.

Based upon these complaints, local and federal law enforcement officials arrested six (6) members and associates of the Varrio Posole Locos street gang today. In addition to these arrests, six other defendants named in the complaints are presently incarcerated on other charges.

United States Attorney Hewitt praised the efforts of the North County Regional Gang Task Force and all the member agencies and law enforcement officials who participated in this Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigation. The OCDETF program was created to consolidate and utilize all law enforcement resources in this country's battle against major drug trafficking.

Oceanside Police Chief Frank S. McCoy said, "The Oceanside Police Department is committed to working in all areas of the community to enhance public safety. Today's operation is an example of bringing in multiple law enforcement agency resources to greatly diminish the impacts of one of our local gangs. The conclusion of this operation brings to light the outstanding relationships we have with our law enforcement partners at the Federal, State and Local levels that are also committed to combating gang activity. I would like to personally thank all of the agencies involved in helping to eradicate gangs and gang violence to make Oceanside a safer community."

The defendants are expected to be in court on Tuesday, October 14, 2008, before Magistrate Judge Ruben B. Brooks to be arraigned on the complaints.

**DEFENDANTS**

**Case Number: 08mj3113**

Cesar Diaz, aka Big Ceez

In custody

Thomas Sarenana, aka Tommy Gun

In custody

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(g)(1) and 924 – Felon in Possession of a Firearm  
Maximum penalty: 10 years in prison

**DEFENDANTS**

**Case Number: 08mj3114**

Jesse Moreno Jr., aka Mosco	In custody
Frank Sandoval, aka Sapo	In custody
Armando Navarro, aka Gato	In custody

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951 (Hobbs Act) – Extortion Affecting Interstate Commerce,  
and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2 – Aiding and Abetting  
Maximum penalty: 20 years in prison

**DEFENDANT**

**Case Number: 08mj3108**

Marco Gomez	In custody
-------------	------------

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1) – Distribution of Methamphetamine, Title 18 United States  
Code, Section 2 – Aiding and Abetting  
Maximum penalty: 40 years in prison

**DEFENDANT**

**Case Number: 08mj3111**

Jesus Gonzalez	In custody
----------------	------------

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 and 841(a)(1) – Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine  
Maximum penalty: 40 years in prison

**DEFENDANTS**

**Case Number: 08mj3107**

Jesse Moreno Jr., aka Mosco	In custody
Roman Garcia, aka Spider	In custody
Lisa Illian	In custody

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 and 841(a)(1) – Conspiracy to Distribute Heroin  
Maximum penalty: 20 years in prison

**DEFENDANT**

**Case Number: 08mj3110**

Abel Salgado, aka Shadow	In custody
--------------------------	------------

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1) – Distribution of Heroin, Title 18, United States Code,

Section 2 – Aiding and Abetting  
Maximum penalty: 20 years in prison

**DEFENDANT**

**Case Number: 08mj3112**

Frank Sandoval, aka Sapo

In custody

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1) and 924 – Felon in Possession of a Firearm  
Maximum penalty: 10 years in prison

**DEFENDANTS**

**Case Number: 08mj3109**

Jesse Moreno Jr., aka Mosco

In custody

Joseph Moreno, aka Chapo

In custody

Eliseo Nunez, aka Popeye

In custody

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 and 841(a)(1) – Conspiracy to Distribute Heroin  
Maximum penalty: 20 years in prison

**AGENCIES**

San Diego County Sheriff's Department  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Oceanside Police Department  
Escondido Police Department  
Carlsbad Police Department  
Naval Criminal Investigative Service  
Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives  
San Diego County Probation Office  
California Department of Justice, Bureau of Firearms  
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

**A complaint is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.**