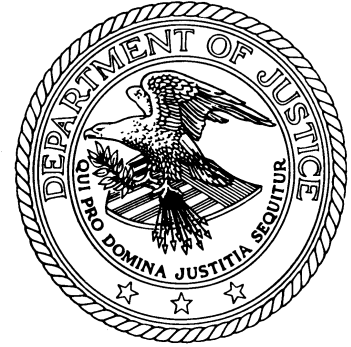


NEWS RELEASE



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

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

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - November 13, 2008

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Victor Melendrez-Franco, a former Tijuana police officer, was sentenced today in federal court in San Diego by the Honorable Thomas J. Whelan to serve 30 months in custody and four years of supervised release based on his conviction of possession with intent to distribute approximately 440 grams of heroin.

According to court papers, on November 2, 2007, officers from the San Diego Police Department performed a motor vehicle stop for a traffic violation and, after receiving consent to search the vehicle, discovered the heroin. Melendrez-Franco pled guilty in March 2008. According to Assistant U.S. Attorney John Parmley, who is handling the case, Melendrez-Franco was employed as a police officer in Tijuana, Mexico at the time of his arrest.

DEFENDANT

Criminal Case No. 07-CR-3289-W

Victor Melendrez-Franco
Tijuana, Mexico

SUMMARY OF CHARGE

Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1) - Possession of Heroin with Intent to Distribute

AGENCIES

Drug Enforcement Administration
San Diego Police Department