

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 Sherri Walker Hobson at (619) 557-5027

For Immediate Release

LOCAL NATIONAL CITY METHAMPHETAMINE DISTRIBUTER SENTENCED TO 168 MONTHS IN CUSTODY

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - April 16, 2009

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced today that Harold Lloyd Garner, of National City, California, was sentenced to a custodial term of 168 months in federal court before the Honorable Thomas J. Whelan, United States District Court Judge for the Southern District of California, after Harold Garner's guilty plea to conspiracy to distribute over five kilograms of methamphetamine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 and 841(a)(1). As part of his plea, Harold Garner admitted to smuggling, transporting, and distributing methamphetamine during a three-year period while living in National City, California. Garner arranged for couriers to smuggle methamphetamine into the United States from Mexico and then distributed the methamphetamine locally in National City and to other locations in the United States.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Sherri Walker Hobson, who is prosecuting the case, Garner was arrested on March 28, 2008, following an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration (“DEA”) and the San Diego Narcotics Task Force (“NTF”). Co-defendant Monica Flores-Garner, who was also arrested at that time, received a 46-month sentence today, after pleading guilty to using a communication device to facilitate drug trafficking activities, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 843(b), for her criminal involvement with her husband, Harold Garner.

Defendant Guadalupe Gonzalez-Alvarado, who smuggled methamphetamine through the border for Harold Garner and others, was sentenced to 108 months in custody by the Honorable Jeffrey T. Miller, United States District Court Judge on March 6, 2009. Defendant Alvarado was arrested on August 10, 2007, after she was caught as the driver of a vehicle with approximately two pounds of methamphetamine in Tupperware containers and approximately 2 pounds of heroin in her waistband area. She was caught attempting to enter the United States through the San Ysidro Port of Entry. She pled guilty to two felony counts of possession of controlled substances with intent to distribute, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1). She is currently serving her 108-month sentence.

United States Attorney Hewitt stated, “The United States Attorney’s Office is committed to prosecuting those who would distribute drugs on our streets that harm our citizens.” She also praised the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) for the coordinated team effort in the culmination of this investigation. Several local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies assisted in this OCDETF investigation, including DEA and San Diego Narcotics Task Force. The OCDETF program was created to consolidate and utilize all law enforcement resources in this country’s battle against major drug trafficking.

"The collaborative effort of the DEA, NTF and U.S. Attorney’s Office has led to today’s sentencing of a major drug dealer and ultimately safer streets within our community. This should send a message that drug dealers and their associates can’t do business in this community without the watchful eye of local, state and federal agencies," said DEA Acting Special Agent in Charge Stephen M. Tomaski.

DEFENDANTS

Harold Lloyd Garner Case Number: 08cr1289 In custody
National City, California

Monica Flores-Garner Case Number: 08cr1289 In custody
National City, California

Guadalupe Gonzalez-Alvarado Case Number: 07cr2466 In custody
Mexico

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Harold Lloyd Garner

Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine
Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846
Penalties: 10-year minimum mandatory to life in custody; 5 years of supervised release, \$1,000,000 fine

Monica Flores-Garner

Using Communication Device To Facilitate Drug Trafficking
Title 21, United States Code, Section 843
Penalties: 48 months maximum in custody; 1 year of supervised release, \$250,000 fine

Guadalupe Gonzalez-Alvarado

Possession with intent to distribute Methamphetamine & Heroin
Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1)
Penalties: 10-year minimum mandatory to life in custody; 5 years of supervised release, \$1,000,000 fine

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Drug Enforcement Administration
San Diego Narcotics Task Force
California Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement
National City Police Department
El Cajon Police Department