



ATF News

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7 Idaho Gang Members and Associates Indicted on Firearm Charges

BOISE, Idaho – Seven gang members and associates from Canyon County, Idaho, have been indicted for firearms trafficking and illegal possession of firearms, Special Agent in Charge Kelvin N. Crenshaw of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) announced today.

A federal grand jury returned the indictment Jan. 10 against the following five men and two women:

- Cesar Tellez-Castro, unlawful possession of and unregistered sawed-off shotgun
- Liza Beth Bernal, providing false statement during acquisition of a firearm and firearm disposition to a prohibited person (felon)
- Anibal Silva-Puga, unlawful possession of a firearm by a prohibited person (felon)
- Greg Rene Esparza, unlawful possession of ammunition by a prohibited person (felon)
- Joshua James Boyer, unlawful possession of a firearm by a prohibited person (felon)
- Cassandra Ruby-Perez, providing false statement during acquisition of a firearm
- Rock Mendoza, unlawful possession of ammunition by a prohibited person (felon)

"Criminal activity by gang members is one of our top priorities," said United States Attorney Tom Moss. "Successful prosecutions depend on thorough and accurate investigations, and we appreciate the commitment and skill of ATF and our local partners."

"This case represents the full spectrum of firearm charges," said Crenshaw, "from illegal acquisition and disposition of guns, to felons in possession of firearms, to possession of an unregistered sawed-off shotgun. This is a clear example of the 'tool of the trade' used by gangs, which makes them a threat to public safety."

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Agencies that assisted with the investigation include: Canyon County Sheriff's Office, Nampa Police Department Special Investigations Unit, Caldwell Police Department and the Metro Violent Crime Task Force. The case will be prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office in Boise.

More information on ATF and its programs is at www.atf.gov.

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