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NEWS RELEASE

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CALDWELL GANG LEADER SENTENCED TO LENGTHY PRISON SENTENCE

Edwardo Nino Alfaro, 26, a leader of the East Side Loco criminal street gang, will serve 150 months in federal prison for unlawful possession of firearms, U.S. Attorney Tom Moss announced yesterday. Chief U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winmill ordered Alfaro's federal sentence to run consecutively to the 26-year sentence that he is currently serving at the Idaho State Correctional Institute.

On June 23, 2008, a Boise jury found the defendant guilty on three counts of unlawfully possessing firearms. During the three-day trial, the jury heard evidence that during a traffic stop on June 2, 2006, Canyon County Sheriff's deputies and ATF agents found Alfaro and others in possession of a fully-loaded SKS assault rifle. Later, on October 13, 2006, Caldwell Police officers arrested Alfaro on an outstanding warrant as he attempted to enter a vehicle. They subsequently found a loaded sawed-off shotgun in the back of that vehicle. Months later, Caldwell Police officers and ATF agents found photographs of Alfaro posing with the same SKS assault rifle and sawed-off shotgun. These photographs were taken on an unknown date before the guns were seized by police.

Chief U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winmill heard sentencing arguments from the Government and Alfaro's attorney. The attorney for the Government listed for the court Alfaro's prior criminal history. Alfaro was convicted at the age of 14 for possession of a concealed and stolen handgun. At age 15, he was convicted of residential burglary. At age 16, he was charged with attempted murder in the first degree after a drive-by shooting. He pleaded guilty to a charge of aggravated assault. Alfaro was placed on probation and quickly violated his probation by

possessing a handgun and committing a battery on a female victim. Alfaro was incarcerated in the Idaho State Correctional Institute from 2001 until 2006. Upon his release from prison, Alfaro committed the instant federal crimes, as well as another drive-by shooting. A Canyon County jury convicted Alfaro of aggravated battery and possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime in 2007, for the drive-by shooting a Caldwell man. Alfaro was sentenced to 26 years in prison and is not eligible for parole until October 12, 2014. If the defendant is not paroled early, he will begin serving his 150-month federal sentence on October 11, 2032.

At sentencing, Chief U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winmill stated, “Alfaro has in the past and will in the future pose a very serious danger to the community of continued gang and gun violence.” After pronouncing Alfaro’s sentencing, Chief Judge Winmill informed Alfaro, “You are now 26 years old. The earliest that you may hope to be released from prison is when you are 44 years old. More likely, you will not be released back into society until you reach the age of 62. Because of the danger you pose to society, I hope you are not released until you are 62 years old.”

U.S. Attorney Tom Moss commended the Caldwell City Street Crimes Unit and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for their investigative efforts that led to the removal of a violent gang leader from our community.

Alfaro’s prosecution was part of Idaho’s Project Safe Neighborhoods program, which seeks to reduce gun violence. His case was handled by the Special Assistant United States Attorney hired by the Treasure Valley Partners and the Idaho Attorney General’s Office to combat gang violence in Idaho.

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