



PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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For Information Contact Public Affairs
HARRIET BERNICK
Telephone: (602) 514-7736
Pager: (602) 356-0004

LOS ANGELES MAN INDICTED FOR PURCHASING FIREARMS UNDER A FALSE IDENTITY

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- Paul K. Charlton, U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona, and Virginia O'Brien, Special Agent in Charge for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, announced that on June 10, 2003, a federal grand jury at Phoenix, Arizona, returned a thirteen-count indictment against BENIGNO NEGRETE, d.o.b. 01/02/1976, of Los Angeles, California.

The Indictment alleges that in 13 transactions, occurring between February 8, 2002 and May 11, 2003, Mr Negrete used a false name and address to purchase a total of 38 firearms from six Prescott and Prescott Valley, Arizona, federally licensed firearms dealers. The indictment further alleges that in purchasing the firearms, Negrete executed a number of Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) Forms 4473, Firearms Transaction Records, on which he stated that his name was Guadalupe Antonio Figueroa, and that he had a Phoenix residential address.

Mr. Negrete was arrested on May 11, 2003, in Prescott Valley, Arizona, after purchasing four handguns from a federally licensed firearms dealer. Following his arrest, Mr. Negrete was released on conditions by the U.S. Magistrate Judge. A summons will be issued for Mr. Negrete to appear for

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arraignment on these charges.

The federal indictment charges Benigno Negrete with violating Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 924(a)(1)(A), Making False Statements in the Acquisition of Firearms. A conviction for 18 U.S.C. § 924(a)(1)(A) carries a maximum penalty of five years, a \$250,000 fine or both.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the Phoenix Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, the Prescott Office of the Arizona Department of Public Safety and the Prescott Valley Police Department.

The prosecution is being handled by Emory Hurley, Special Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-585-PCT
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