



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Debt Collector for McCracken Drug Conspiracy **Sentenced to 17 years in Federal Prison**

FARGO - United States Attorney Drew Wrigley announced that **Javier Reyes** of Fargo, North Dakota, formerly of California, was sentenced on November 22, 2005, before United States District Court Ralph R. Erickson on a Federal drug-conspiracy charge.

Reyes, 29, pleaded guilty on August 8, 2005, to conspiring to possess with intent to distribute and distribute more than 500 grams of a controlled substance. As part of the conspiracy **Reyes** used violence and intimidation in his role as a debt collector for a sub-dealer of the Kelly James McCracken drug-trafficking organization. The conspiracy operated from January 2002 to February 2005 in North Dakota.

Judge Erickson sentenced **Reyes** to 17 years' imprisonment to be followed by five years of supervised release. **Reyes** was ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund.

"This sentence sends a strong message to those who seek to further their illegal enterprises through force or the threat of force," stated Assistant United States Attorney Chris Myers, who prosecuted the case.

Reyes is the second defendant to be sentenced on this 18-defendant indictment. Co-defendant Ryan Gilbertson received a 10-year sentence on November 22, 2005. Co-defendant Chester Clow is set

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for trial on January 9, 2006. There are 14 remaining co-defendants who have pleaded guilty and await sentencing.

In related indictments, Miguel Garcia, Mark Crompton, Christopher Hornbeak, and Francisca Avila Vargas face charges and await trial. Jason Hust received a 42-month sentence on November 10, 2005, for his role in the conspiracy. This case remains under investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Drug Enforcement Administration; and West Fargo and Fargo Police Departments.

U. S. Attorney Drew Wrigley issued the following brief statement in relation to **Reyes'** sentencing:

“Does anyone seriously still believe that the illegal drug trade represents a victimless crime? Every significant drug-trafficking conspiracy has enforcers like Javier Reyes. Make no mistake, Javier Reyes is a violent street thug who helped make it possible for this conspiracy to move an enormous amount of methamphetamine into and through North Dakota. The other shoe is starting to drop and Javier Reyes has 17 years in Federal prison to come to terms with the seriousness of his crimes.”

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