



PRESS NOTICE

W. WALTER WILKINS UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

*1441 Main Street, Suite 500 * Columbia, SC 29201 * (803) 929-3000**

September 16, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT PERSON: KEVIN McDONALD
(803) 929-3000

ILLEGAL ALIEN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL FIREARM CHARGES

COLUMBIA, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney W. Walter Wilkins announced today that Salvador Garcia-Chavez, age 22, of Mexico, pled guilty to being an alien in possession of firearms and ammunition in federal court. United States District Judge Henry F. Floyd accepted the plea and will impose sentence at a later date.

Evidence presented at the guilty plea hearing established that on July 23, 2008, agents executed a search warrant at Garcia-Chavez' residence in Greenville. During the search of the residence, agents found and seized ten firearms, assorted ammunition and approximately one pound of methamphetamine.

Garcia-Chavez, based on his illegal status in the country, is prohibited under federal law from possessing a firearm or ammunition. Garcia-Chavez faces a maximum 10 years imprisonment and a five year consecutive sentence because he possessed

drugs in connection with the firearm offense.

The case was investigated by agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) and the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, and was prosecuted as part of the joint federal, state, and local Project Cease-fire initiative, which aggressively prosecutes firearm cases. Assistant United States Attorney Leesa Washington of the Greenville office is handling the prosecution of the case.

####