



*Office of the United States Attorney  
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **SOUTHERN ARIZ. MAN SENTENCED TO OVER 15 YEARS FOR MARIJUANA AND FIREARM CHARGES**

TUCSON, Ariz. – Oscar Perez, 39, of Arivaca, Ariz., was sentenced on June 10, 2008 by U.S. District Judge Cindy K. Jorgenson to 186 months in federal prison. Perez pleaded guilty on March 28, 2008 and admitted his involvement in a conspiracy to distribute over 1000 kilograms of marijuana. He also pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm related to that offense. The sentence will be followed by concurrent five-year terms of supervised release.

Perez' conviction followed a long-term investigation conducted by members of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF). Court documents show that Oscar Perez was an organizer and leader within a drug trafficking organization that conspired to bring marijuana into the U.S. from Mexico, either by backpackers or in horse loads. The marijuana was then taken to property owned by the Perez family for further distribution within the U.S.

Several members of the Perez family were also charged in connection with the investigation. Oscar Perez' father, Adam Perez, 62, of Arivaca, was also sentenced yesterday after pleading guilty on March 28, 2008 to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute marijuana. He was sentenced to 30 months in prison to be followed by a three-year term of supervised release. Others charged in connection with the offense include Oscar Perez' daughter, Jodella Perez, 21, and his wife, Sophia Perez, 24. Sophia Perez is currently serving a sentence of 13 months and 1 day in prison following her guilty plea on May 9, 2007 to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute marijuana. Oscar Perez' sister, Margarita Jones, also pleaded guilty to Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute Marijuana and will be sentenced on July 18<sup>th</sup> before Judge Jorgenson in Tucson. One final co-defendant, Jim Davis, remains a fugitive.

In pleading guilty, Oscar and Adam Perez also agreed to forfeit their interest in real property located in Arivaca that was identified within the investigation as property which was either derived from the proceeds of narcotics smuggling, or facilitated the activities of the drug trafficking organization. Additionally, numerous firearms were seized by federal agents when search warrants were executed on the Perez properties.

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and U.S. Border Patrol. The prosecution was handled by Bradley W. Giles and Danny Roetzel, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, District of Arizona, Tucson.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-1537-TUC-CKJ  
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