



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

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For Information Contact Public Affairs
SANDY RAYNOR
Telephone: (602) 514-7625
Cell: (602) 525-2681

FIVE MEMBERS OF DRUG TRAFFICKING CELLS SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON

PHOENIX - Five members of two drug trafficking cells operating in the Phoenix area were sentenced to prison on August 1, 2008, by U.S. District Judge Susan R. Bolton. The leader of one of the cells, Rosario Bojorquez-Ponce, 22, of Obregon, Mexico, was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Two of Bojorquez-Ponce's drivers, Jesus Martinez, 28, of Obregon, Mexico, and Carlos Verdugo-Soto, 28 of Pueblo Yaqui, Mexico, were sentenced to 36 months and 30 months in prison, respectively. One of Bojorquez-Ponce's sources of supply, Jose Garcia-Sierra, 24, of Madriaguato, Mexico, was sentenced to 84 months in prison. Alberto Romo-Agramon, 30, of Pueblo Yaqui, Mexico, a member of another drug trafficking cell that worked closely with Bojorquez-Ponce, was also sentenced to 84 months in prison. All of these defendants pleaded guilty in March 2008 to Conspiracy to Possess with the Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine and Cocaine.

During a court-authorized wiretap investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, authorities learned that Bojorquez-Ponce was involved in distributing significant quantities of methamphetamine and cocaine in the Phoenix area. Through a combination of undercover work and surveillance, law enforcement officers were able to identify Martinez, and Verdugo-Soto as working for Bojorquez-Ponce, and Romo-Agramon and Garcia-Sierra as drug traffickers who had dealings with Bojorquez-Ponce. During the investigation, between December 2006 and April 2007, law enforcement officials seized approximately four kilograms of methamphetamine, two kilograms of cocaine, smaller amounts of marijuana and crack cocaine, and \$62,528 in cash.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration. The prosecution was handled by James Morse Jr. and Brian Larson, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-07-398 & CR-07-431
RELEASE NUMBER: 2008-198(Bojorquez-Ponce)

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