

For Immediate Release
January 13, 2012

**GANG MEMBER FROM DEMING SENTENCED TO 40 YEARS FOR FEDERAL
DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ATTEMPTED ESCAPE CONVICTION**

LAS CRUCES -- U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales announced that, this morning, **Daniel Ramon Muñoz**, 30, also known as “Rhino,” of Deming, N.M., was sentenced to 40 years of imprisonment for his federal drug trafficking and attempted escape conviction by a federal judge in Las Cruces, N.M. Muñoz, an admitted member of the Sureño gang, will serve a ten-year term of supervised release after he completes his prison sentence.

On August 30, 2010, Muñoz pled guilty to Counts 1 and 8 of the third superseding indictment charging him with (i) conspiracy to possess methamphetamine with intent to distribute, and (ii) attempting to escape from the custody of the Luna County Detention Center on December 9, 2009. According to documents filed in connection with his plea hearing, in July 2009, Muñoz conspired with others to smuggle methamphetamine into the United States from Mexico by using women who concealed the drugs in their body cavities. During his plea hearing, Muñoz also admitted that in December 2009, while in federal custody, he had a handcuff key in his possession which he intended to use in an attempt to escape from jail.

Yesterday, Muñoz’s co-defendant, Nathan Archuleta, also known as “Enemy,” 31, of Farmington, N.M., was sentenced to 30 years of imprisonment for his federal drug trafficking and firearm conviction.

The case was investigated by Homeland Security Investigations with assistance from the U.S. Border Patrol, the U.S. Marshal’s Service and the New Mexico State Police, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Stephen H. Wong and Nathan J. Lichvarcik.

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