

For Immediate Release
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**MEXICAN NATIONAL FROM ARIZONA RECEIVES 20 YEAR SENTENCE FOR
HEROIN TRAFFICKING AND UNLAWFUL RE-ENTRY CONVICTIONS**

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning in federal court in Albuquerque, **Jose Luis Alvarez-Norzagaray**, 37, was sentenced to a 240-month term of imprisonment for his convictions for possessing heroin with intent to distribute and illegally re-entering the United States after having previously been deported. Alvarez-Norzagaray is a Mexican national who was residing in Phoenix, Arizona, when he was arrested on June 1, 2010. He will be deported to Mexico when he completes his prison sentence.

Court records reflect that Alvarez-Norzagaray was arrested on June 1, 2010, following a routine traffic stop by a New Mexico State Police officer in the vicinity of Grants, N.M. After citing Alvarez-Norzagaray for a minor traffic violation, the officer asked for and received Alvarez-Norzagaray's consent to search his vehicle. After a narcotics canine alerted to the front of the vehicle, indicating the presence of narcotics, New Mexico State Police officers found five tubular packages containing heroin that were concealed in the frame of the car near the front fender. Subsequent laboratory analysis revealed that the packages contained an aggregate of 3.44 kilograms of heroin.

On October 20, 2011, Alvarez-Norzagaray pled guilty to a two-count indictment charging him with possession of heroin with intent to distribute, and unlawful re-entry by a removed alien. In entering his guilty plea, Alvarez-Norzagaray admitted knowing that the car he was driving from Phoenix to Albuquerque contained heroin. He also admitted that he previously had been deported from the United States on two occasions, first in 2001 and again in 2005.

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the New Mexico

State Police, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Nicholas Jon Ganjei.

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