



U.S. Department of Justice
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PRESS RELEASE

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**MEXICAN NATIONAL SENTENCED TO 63 MONTHS FOR
FEDERAL COCAINE TRAFFICKING CONVICTION**

ALBUQUERQUE -- This afternoon a federal judge in Albuquerque sentenced, **Romel Sillas Sosa**, 35, to 63 months of imprisonment for his federal drug trafficking conviction. Sosa, a Mexican national who was residing in Bakersfield, Cal. at the time of his drug trafficking crime, will be deported after he completes his prison sentence.

Sosa initially was charged with conspiracy to possess more than five kilograms of cocaine with intent to distribute in a criminal complaint on January 25, 2008, and subsequently indicted on that same charge on February 12, 2008. The complaint alleged that Sosa was implicated in the drug trafficking offense by a trucker driver who was arrested on January 24, 2008, shortly after abandoning an overturned tracker trailer containing approximately 135 gross kilograms of cocaine in the vicinity of mile marker 8 on Interstate 40 in McKinley County, N.M. According to the truck driver, Sosa was the owner of a trucking company in Bakersfield, and provided him with a tractor trailer to transport the cocaine from California to Indiana.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Sosa was arrested in Arizona on June 18, 2010, and was transferred to the District of New Mexico on July 1, 2010 to face the charge in this case. Sosa has been in federal custody since his arrest. On August 31, 2011, Sosa pled guilty to the indictment charging him with conspiracy to possess cocaine with intent to distribute. In his plea agreement, Sosa admitted that he was part owner of Sosa Brothers Trucking Co., and that he intentionally provided a tractor trailer to a truck driver so he could transport approximately 135 kilograms of cocaine from California to Indiana.

The case was investigated by DEA and the New Mexico Department of Public Safety Motor Transport Division, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Roberto D. Ortega.

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