



**PRESS RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Elizabeth M. Martinez  
Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney  
Public Affairs Officer  
[elizabeth.martinez@usdoj.gov](mailto:elizabeth.martinez@usdoj.gov)  
505.224.1469

**For Immediate Release**

**May 22, 2012**

**ALBUQUERQUE WOMAN SENTENCED TO FOUR MONTHS  
IN PRISON FOR POSSESSION OF STOLEN MAIL**

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning, a federal judge sentenced Johanna Chavez, 28, a resident of Albuquerque, N.M., to four months of imprisonment to be followed by three years of supervised release for her conviction for possession of stolen mail matter. After completing her prison sentence, Chavez will begin her supervised release at a half way house.

Chavez was indicted on Dec. 1, 2010, and charged with eight counts of theft of mail and one count of possession of stolen mail matter. Chavez was arrested on Feb. 1, 2012, after she completed a three year prison sentence on unrelated state charges. She has been in federal custody since that time.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Chavez pled guilty to Count 9 of the indictment, under a plea agreement with the U.S. Attorney's Office on March 8, 2012. During her plea hearing, Chavez admitted that on Feb. 28, 2009, she unlawfully possessed eight pieces of mail addressed to other persons. Chavez also admitted stealing the mail out of residential mailboxes while she was in the Four Hills neighborhood of Albuquerque on Feb. 28, 2009.

Under the terms of Chavez's plea agreement, Counts 1 through 8 were dismissed after Chavez was sentenced.

This case was investigated by the Albuquerque Police Department and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary L. Higgins.

###