

September 21, 2011

**Treasury Targets Colombian Drug Trafficking Organization  
Tied To Mexican Drug Lord Chapo Guzman**

The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) today designated four individuals and 12 entities with ties to previously-designated Colombian national Jorge Milton Cifuentes Villa or other designated individuals or entities as Specially Designated Narcotics Traffickers (SDNTs) pursuant to the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (Kingpin Act).

As a result of today's action, U.S. persons are prohibited from conducting financial or commercial transactions with the designees and any assets they may have under U.S. jurisdiction are frozen.

The four individuals designated today are Colombian nationals Mauricio Barcenas Rivera, Omar Mejia Zuluaga, and Ana Maria Uribe Cifuentes and dual Uruguayan/Ecuadorian national Jesus Maria Castro. The 12 companies designated today are located in Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, and Uruguay. Included among them are the Colombian entities *AS Inversiones S.A.* and *T & T Andina S.A.*, which operate gas stations, and a Uruguayan cattle company, *Genetica del Sur S.A.*

Jorge Milton Cifuentes Villa leads a drug trafficking and money laundering organization closely allied with Sinaloa Cartel leader Joaquin Guzman Loera (Chapo Guzman). Along with more than 70 individuals and entities, Jorge Milton Cifuentes Villa was designated as an SDNT by OFAC in February 2011. Guzman Loera and the Sinaloa Cartel were identified by the President as drug kingpins pursuant to the Kingpin Act in 2001 and 2009, respectively.

Guzman Loera and Jorge Milton Cifuentes Villa were indicted on drug trafficking and/or money laundering charges in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida in November 2010. In February 2011, Jorge Milton Cifuentes Villa was also indicted on drug trafficking charges in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

OFAC coordinated on this investigation with the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Colombian National Police's Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DIJIN). Today's action is part of ongoing efforts pursuant to the Kingpin Act to apply financial measures against significant foreign narcotics traffickers and their organizations worldwide. Treasury has designated more than 1,000 individuals and entities pursuant to the Kingpin Act since June 2000.

Penalties for violations of the Kingpin Act range from civil penalties of up to \$1.075 million per violation to more severe criminal penalties. Criminal penalties for corporate officers may include up to 30 years in prison and fines up to \$5 million. Criminal fines for corporations may reach \$10 million. Other individuals face up to 10 years in prison and fines pursuant to Title 18 of the United States Code for criminal violations of the Kingpin Act.

###