



PRESS RELEASE

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COLORADO ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCES 55 POUNDS OF METH SEIZED IN “OPERATION CARGO”

17 People Indicted for Trafficking Methamphetamine

DENVER—[The Colorado Attorney General’s Office](#) announced one of the largest single incidents of methamphetamine seizure by law enforcement in state history in partnership with the [U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration](#), [Colorado Department of Revenue Criminal Tax Enforcement Section](#), The [West Metro Drug Task Force](#), the [Adams County District Attorney’s Office](#), [Thornton Police Department](#) and [Denver Police Department](#). 17 individuals have been indicted by the statewide grand jury for operating a network that sold methamphetamine throughout the Denver-metro area. Known as “Operation Cargo” the 64-count indictment alleges charges that include violations of the Colorado Organized Crime Control Act, Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance, Conspiracy, Money Laundering, and Tax Evasion.

“After conducting five wiretaps over five weeks, fifty-five pounds of meth was taken off the streets,” said Attorney General John Suthers. “The brazenness of this ring was astounding. For example, customers could literally walk up to a food truck and order a side of meth with their taco.”

Juan Carlos Gonzalez (D.O.B. 08/23/77), Monica Gonzalez (D.O.B. 05/04/60), Oscar Ruvalcaba (D.O.B. 06/01/85), Luz Gonzalez (D.O.B.05/27/64, Maria Arellano a/k/a “Nena” (D.O.B. 08/31/75), Patrick Shane Lorenzo (D.O.B. 08/20/79), Enrique Campos (D.O.B. 07/15/70), Jennifer Seipp (D.O.B. 11/17/82), Joe Baier (D.O.B. 06/06/57), Tina LeBlanc (D.O.B. 03/10/75), Frank Hardy (D.O.B. 06/10/58), Matthew Skipp a/k/a “Mateo” (D.O.B, 06/12/62), James Michael Loeffler (D.O.B. 11/18/56), Jennifer Joy Ganje (D.O.B. 09/01/74), Jason Jacquez (D.O.B. 09/11/74), Danielle A. Ulibarri (D.O.B. 01/10/73), and Hugo Macias Arevalo (D.O.B. 04/02/72) were all named in the indictment. Juan Carlos Gonzalez was the

leader of the Gonzalez Drug Trafficking Organization. Gonzalez coordinated with others to primarily import meth as well as cocaine from Mexico into California for delivery in Colorado.

“This investigation has put a significant dent in the meth trade in Adams County,” said 17th Judicial District Attorney Dave Young. “A massive amount of meth has been seized, keeping these lethal drugs out of our community.”

Oscar Ruvalcaba is accused of being the “load car” driver who transported the drugs into Colorado and delivered them to Juan Carlos Gonzalez. In August, DEA and the West Metro Drug Task Force interdicted 55 pounds of meth some of which Ruvalcaba hid in the floor of a red Mini Cooper. That incident netted one of the largest amounts of meth ever confiscated in a single bust in Colorado.

According to the indictment, upon receipt of the drugs, Gonzalez would distribute them primarily through his aunts, Monica Gonzalez and Luz Gonzalez as well as to others in the ring to sell. Maria Arellano is accused of selling the meth out of her taco trailer located at 8th and Federal Avenue in Denver.

DEA Special Agent in Charge Barbra M. Roach stated that, “Guns, money and record amounts of crystal methamphetamine were seized during this multi-agency investigation. Today’s arrests represent the final dismantlement of the apex of this organized transnational criminal activity operating in Colorado.”

The allegations outline how Jennifer Seipp and Juan Carlos Gonzalez conspired to evade paying taxes and engaged in a pattern of racketeering to hide the money.

All of the accused are currently in custody except for Patrick Lorenzo and James Loeffler who remain at large. Any member of the public with information on the whereabouts of Lorenzo and Loeffler are asked to contact the DEA at 720-895-4139.

The filing of criminal charges or an indictment is merely a formal accusation that an individual committed a crime. Each defendant should be presumed innocent until proven guilty. These cases will be prosecuted in Adams County by the Colorado Attorney General’s Office and the 17th Judicial District Attorney’s Office.

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