



# Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Richard B. Roper  
Northern District of Texas**

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CONTACT: KATHY COLVIN  
PHONE: (214) 659-8600  
FAX: (214) 767-2898

## **TEXAS SYNDICATE PRISON GANG MEMBERS SENTENCED**

### **Convictions Dismantled Entire Leadership Structure of Dallas Texas Syndicate**

**DALLAS** - The last sentencing in a large-scale drug distribution conspiracy case involving members of the Texas Syndicate, a violent prison gang, was held today in federal court in Dallas, announced U.S. Attorney Richard B. Roper of the Northern District of Texas. Ernesto Medrano was sentenced by U.S. District Judge David C. Godbey to more than seventeen years in prison for conspiracy to distribute, and possess with intent to distribute, five kilograms or more of cocaine. During the investigation, Medrano, who was incarcerated, brokered multiple kilogram loads of cocaine that were being imported into the U.S. on military transport flights from Columbia to Ft. Bliss, Texas.

Approximately half of the 21 defendants convicted received prison sentences of 14 or more years. Hector Manuel Ayala was sentenced to life imprisonment. Roy Arredondo, Jr., the lead defendant, and head of the Texas Syndicate, was sentenced to 40 years in prison. Daniel Garcia was sentenced to 35 years in prison and Javier Soliz was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

U.S. Attorney Roper said, "These enormous sentences should send chills through drug dealers and gang members in Dallas." Roper continued, "This case is an excellent example of the collaborative efforts of the federal government and local law enforcement working together to aggressively deal with drug, gun and violent gang activity here in North Texas."

The convictions are a result of a Dallas Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) HIDTA Violent Crime Group initiative targeting the Texas Syndicate prison gang. The case was initiated after several drug and gang-related murders, which were believed to be the work of the Texas Syndicate, occurred in the Dallas area. Roy Arredondo, Jr. and his organization trafficked large quantities of narcotics from south Texas and Mexico to Dallas and Decatur, Illinois. The entire leadership structure of the Dallas Texas Syndicate was included in the indictment, and as a result of this investigation, the entire leadership structure of the Dallas Texas Syndicate was dismantled. In addition to large amounts of cash and drugs seized during the investigation, law enforcement also seized numerous firearms, including automatic weapons, from members of the organization.

In May 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales announced that the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex was one of six target areas in the U.S. chosen to receive \$2.5 million in grant funds for a comprehensive anti-gang initiative to devote extensive resources to defeating some of the most violent and pervasive gangs in the country.

The investigation remains ongoing.

U.S. Attorney Roper praised the excellent investigative work of the Dallas Bureau of ATF, HIDTA, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Dallas Police Department Gang Unit. The case was prosecuted by Deputy Criminal Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney Chad Meacham and Assistant U.S. Attorney Kim McCabe.

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