



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ALIEN SENTENCED TO 46 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR FIREARM AND DRUG POSSESSION

TUCSON – Jose Antonio Marquez-Valenzuela, 22, of Caborca, Sonora, Mexico, was sentenced here on August 8 to 46 months in federal prison, to be followed by four years of supervised release, by U.S. District Judge Cindy K. Jorgenson. Marquez-Valenzuela had pleaded guilty on April 13 to two counts: Alien in Possession of a Firearm, and Possession with Intent to Distribute 153.75 Kilograms of Marijuana.

On July 25, 2006, Marquez-Valenzuela gave consent to federal law enforcement agents to search his residence and property. Inside his residence, of which he claimed to be the sole occupant, agents located 153 kilograms of marijuana, a substantial amount of Contractor's grade stretch wrap which is commonly used to package marijuana, an electronic scale, an electronic money counter, and \$18,500 in U.S. currency. Marquez-Valenzuela admitted as part of his guilty plea that the marijuana that he possessed was for sale, and he intended to deliver the marijuana to another person and he intended to be paid for his involvement. Also located in the residence was an Egyptian style AK-47 assault rifle, five 30-round magazines, one drum magazine, and 74 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition. The firearm was not manufactured in the state of Arizona and was at some point shipped into Arizona from another state or foreign country. Marquez-Valenzuela is a Mexican citizen, and had a non-immigrant visa (a border crossing card) at the time of this offense. However, he admitted that he did not meet any of the legal exceptions which would allow him to legally possess a firearm or ammunition within the United States.

The investigation in this case was conducted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The prosecution was handled by Jennifer J. Maldonado, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-1458-TUC-CKJ
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