Department of Justice

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District of Massachusetts

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14 MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES OF THE WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS LA FAMILIA GANG CHARGED WITH DRUG TRAFFICKING AND FIREARM VIOLATIONS

Springfield, MA...Federal charges were unsealed today against a total of 14 members and associates of the La Familia gang operating in Western Massachusetts.

United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan; Warren T. Bamford, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation - New England Field Division; Colonel Mark F. Delaney, Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police; William Fitchet, Commissioner of the Springfield Police Department; Thomas E. Burke, Chief of the West Springfield Police Department; Anthony Scott, Chief of the Holyoke Police Department; John Ferraro, Chief of the Chicopee Police Department; William Bennett, Hampden County District Attorney; and Michael J. Ashe, Jr. Hampden County Sheriff, announced today the unsealing of six federal indictments charging a total of 14 individuals, who are members or associates of the La Familia gang, with drug trafficking, and two defendants with firearm violations.

The charges are the result of a joint effort among federal and local law enforcement agencies to dismantle La Familia, a violent street gang operating in, among other places, Springfield and Holyoke, Massachusetts. In 2006, the Western Massachusetts FBI Gang Task Force began focusing on the La Familia gang. Since the investigation began in 2006, the Task Force has successfully made purchases in the greater Springfield / Holyoke area of heroin, cocaine, cocaine base, and firearms from leaders, members, or associates of La Familia.

According to a detention affidavit filed in federal court, the defendants are either members or associates of the Massachusetts Chapter of La Familia, which includes the Springfield and Holyoke Chapters. According to the affidavit, La Familia is a street gang with hundreds of members in Springfield, Holyoke and other cities and operates local chapters throughout the state, and the Northeast region, including chapters inside many correctional facilities. Many members of the gang are involved in a broad range of illegal activities including drug trafficking and crimes of violence undertaking in furtherance of protecting interests of the gang and its members.

A total of 6 federal Indictments were returned charging the following individuals:

Charged in the first Indictment are **MARIA MARQUEZ**, age 33, of 527 S. Bridge Street, Holyoke; **SARAH SUPERNAW**, age 23, of 28 Clinton Avenue, Holyoke; **SMILEEN MATOS**, a/k/a "Chino Weeno," age 32, of 93 Oak Grove Avenue, Springfield; **ISAAC TORRES**, a/k/a "Velvi," age 23, of 60 Hampshire Street, Holyoke; and **JOHN HARLEY**, age 40, of 64 Hampshire

Street, Holyoke. All five defendants are charged with 1 count of Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute and Distribution of 5 grams or more of Crack Cocaine and 1 count of Possession with Intent to Distribute and Distribution of 5 grams or more of Crack Cocaine. **MARQUEZ, SUPERNAW,** and **MATOS** are charged with 1 additional count of Possession with Intent to Distribute and Distribution of Cocaine Base. If convicted, **MARQUEZ, MATOS**, and **HARLEY** face maximum sentences of life in prison, and **SUPERNAW** and **TORRES** face maximum sentences of 40 years in prison.

Charged in the second Indictment are **RAUL PANTOJA**, a/k/a "Knowledge," age 27, of 2141 Main Street #6, Springfield; **NAOMI MORALES**, a/k/a "Little Naomi," age 27, of 46 Ringgold Street, Apartment #2, Springfield; and **VICTOR AWOKISA**, a/k/a "Money," age 23, of 86 Sherman Street, Springfield. All three defendants are charged with 1 count of Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute and Distribution of 5 grams or more of Crack Cocaine and 1 count of Possession with Intent to Distribute and Distribution of 5 grams or more of Crack Cocaine. Additionally, **PANTOJA** is charged with 2 separate counts of Possession with Intent to Distribute and Distribution of 5 grams or more of Crack Cocaine. If convicted, **PANTOJA** and **AWOKISA** face maximum sentences of 40 years in prison, and **MORALES** faces a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Charged in the third Indictment are **HECTOR ADORNO**, a/k/a "Gordo," age 22, of 86 Knollwood Street, Springfield and **DANIEL RUIZ**, a/k/a "Peanuts," age 22, of 62 Calhoun Street, Springfield. Both defendants are all charged with 1 count of Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute and Distribution of 5 grams or more of Crack Cocaine and 1 count of Possession with Intent to Distribute and Distribution of 5 grams or more of Crack Cocaine. Additionally, **ADORNO** is charged with 2 separate counts of Possession with Intent to Distribute and Distribution of 5 grams or more of Crack Cocaine. If convicted, both defendants face a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Charged in the fourth Indictment are **DAVID MARRERO,** A/K/A "Little D," age 27, of 21 Merwin Street, Street, Springfield and **DAVID PEREZ** age 20, of 80 Massasoit Street, Springfield. Both defendants are all charged with 1 count of Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute and Distribution of 5 grams or more of Crack Cocaine, 1 count of Possession with Intent to Distribute and Distribution of 5 grams or more of Crack Cocaine. Additionally, **MARRERO** is charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition. If convicted, both defendants face a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Charged in the fifth Indictment is **SERGIO RODRIGUEZ,** age 27, of 2718 Main Street, Street, Springfield. **RODRIGUEZ** is charged with two counts of Possession with Intent to Distribute and Distribution of 5 grams or more of Crack Cocaine; and, one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. If convicted, **RODRIGUEZ** faces a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Charged in the sixth Indictment is **MELBIN BERRIOS,** age 26, of 26 Ringgold Street, Street, Springfield. **BERRIOS** is charged with one count of Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute and Distribution of 5 grams or more of Crack Cocaine. If convicted, **BERRIOS** faces a maximum sentence of 40 years.

This investigation was conducted under the auspices of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force ("OCDETF"). The OCDETF Program is a combined effort by numerous federal agencies dedicated to the investigation and prosecution of the most serious drug offenders in the District of Massachusetts. This case was investigated by the FBI's Western Massachusetts Gang Task Force, consisting of law enforcement personnel from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Massachusetts State Police, the Springfield, West Springfield, Holyoke and Chicopee Police Departments, and the Hampden County Sheriff's Office. The FBI's Gang Task Force was assisted by the U.S. Marshals Service, the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Hampden County District Attorney's Office. The federal cases will be prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Alex Grant and Michelle Dineen Jerrett in Sullivan's Springfield Office.

The details contained in the Indictments and complaints are allegations. The defendants are presumed to be innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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