



News Release



San Francisco Field Division

For Immediate Release

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ATF AND RENO DRUG INTERDICTION TEAM SEIZE ANOTHER POUND OF METHAMPHETAMINE IN SPIN-OFF CASE

Additional Subjects Arrested Following Takedown of Operation Domino

RENO, Nev. – Acting Special Agent in Charge Michael P. Gleysteen of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) San Francisco Field Division, announced that ATF agents and members of the Reno Police Department's Drug Interdiction Team arrested Jose Meraz-Astorya, 30, and Constantino Villa, 20, both residents of Vallejo, Calif., following an undercover meeting where ATF agents negotiated and later seized approximately one pound of methamphetamine in Reno.

These arrests follow Tuesday's takedown of Operation Domino, a 15-month joint undercover operation that included more than 100 undercover transactions that netted 75 firearms and more than six pounds of methamphetamine. Last night's arrests followed two previous undercover meetings in which a total of approximately eight ounces of methamphetamine were purchased. The two prior purchases were made in California and the agreement was made to deliver an additional pound of methamphetamine to the Reno area. The arrests last night were conducted without incident.

Meraz-Astorya and Villa were charged with state narcotics violations: Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Methamphetamine With Intent to Distribute, Sale of Methamphetamine and Trafficking in Controlled Substances, Schedule 1, Level 3. Level 3 is the highest level of narcotics trafficking in the state of Nevada. Meraz-Astorya and Villa were transported to the Washoe County Jail where they await further judicial proceedings.

The public is reminded that all persons arrested are only alleged to have committed a crime. A defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it is the government's burden to prove a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

ATF is the federal agency with jurisdiction for investigating federal firearms violations. More information on ATF and its programs can be found at www.atf.gov.

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