

# NEWS RELEASE



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*September 14, 2005*

## **Fargo Man Sentenced on Federal Drug and Firearm Charges**

**FARGO** - United States Attorney Drew H. Wrigley today announced that **Kristopher Kai Hamberg** of Fargo, North Dakota has been sentenced to 55 years in Federal prison for his leadership role in the violent trafficking of methamphetamine. Hamberg's sentence must be served without the possibility of parole.

On June 20, 2005, a Federal jury found **Hamberg** guilty of conspiracy to possess methamphetamine with intent to distribute and two counts of using a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime. United States District Court Judge Rodney S. Webb presided over the five-day trial.

Trial testimony established that in 2003 **Hamberg**, 39, and a co-conspirator, Marcel Vasquez, managed a methamphetamine trafficking ring responsible for moving a large quantity of methamphetamine from the Minneapolis-St. Paul area into North Dakota. **Hamberg** threatened sub-dealers at gun point to instill discipline in his distribution organization, including one incident where he pistol whipped a sub-dealer, leading to the discharge of his weapon in a West Fargo apartment. Four adults and a one-year old baby were present in the apartment at the time. In another incident, **Hamberg** was alleged to have sodomized a female sub-dealer at gunpoint when the woman was six months pregnant.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Drug Enforcement Administration, and the West Fargo Police Department. Thomas J. Fahy, Resident Agent

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in Charge of ATF, said, "This case illustrates the successful partnership between federal and local law enforcement in fighting violent crime and keeping our streets safer."

Assistant U. S. Attorney Chris Myers and U. S. Attorney Drew Wrigley prosecuted the case. "This case demonstrates that violent crime associated with drug trafficking in our communities will quickly attract the attention of Federal authorities, working closely with state law enforcement authorities," said Myers. "Fifty-five years in prison sends a pretty clear message."

U. S. Attorney Wrigley remarked that Detective Brad Berg of the West Fargo Police Department deserves enormous credit for igniting an intensive investigation that was later joined by ATF, particularly Special Agents William McCrary and Brad Wojtylak.

Wrigley further commented that, "Kris Hamberg is among the most violent drug traffickers we have encountered in recent years. His world was lawless, and dealers working for him paid a price for any missteps. Hamberg is soon to be 40 years old. His sentence of 55 years in Federal prison must be served without ever the possibility of parole. Perhaps we can safely say that in his case the violence and criminality that have marked his life have now come to an end."

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