



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE MEXICAN NATIONALS IN INDEPENDENCE, KC CHARGED WITH CONSPIRING TO DISTRIBUTE METH

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that three Mexican nationals living in the metropolitan area were charged today with distributing methamphetamine in a superseding indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Jesus Gonzalez, 29, who resides in Independence, **Francisco J. Soto-Alvarado**, 24, who resides in Kansas City, and **Victor M. Rios**, 36, who resides in Kansas City, were charged in a three-count superseding indictment returned this afternoon by a federal grand jury meeting in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that each of the defendants conspired to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between June 9, 2003, and Aug. 13, 2003.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that the three co-defendants distributed methamphetamine on Aug. 13, 2002, in Jackson County, Mo.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Soto-Alvarado** was in possession of a Taurus 9 mm semi-automatic handgun, during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime, on Aug. 13, 2003, in Kansas City. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any person to be in possession of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime.

Today's superseding indictment replaces a previous indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Sept. 10, 2003, in Kansas City, adding the conspiracy charge.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the superseding indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Catherine A. Connelly. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow