



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FEBRUARY 21, 2003**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **KC MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO TRANSPORTING OVER 650 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Kansas City has pleaded guilty in federal court to transporting 296 kilograms (more than 650 pounds) of marijuana across the state line from Kansas to Missouri.

**Gustavo A. Ibarra**, 26, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs on Feb. 20, 2003, to transporting marijuana across state lines.

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Ibarra** admitted that he assisted in transporting approximately 296 kilograms of marijuana from the state of Kansas to the state of Missouri on Oct. 30, 2002. **Ibarra** admitted that he and others traveled from Kansas City, Mo., to Kansas City, Kan., where the 296 kilograms of marijuana was picked up and transported back to Kansas City, Mo.

Two co-defendants have already pleaded guilty. **Donato G. Esparza**, 39, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty on Jan. 23, 2003 to conspiracy to distribute marijuana. **Jose F. Landeros**, 25, also of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty on Feb. 7, 2003 to conspiracy to distribute marijuana. **Esparza** and **Landeros** await sentencing.

As a result of **Ibarra's** guilty plea, he may subject to a sentence of up to five years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. The sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled sometime after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney W. Brent Powell. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

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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](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)