



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2nd MEXICAN NATIONAL LIVING IN KC SENTENCED FOR INVOLVEMENT IN METH CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Mexican citizen residing in Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced in federal court today for conspiring to distribute methamphetamine.

Jose Luis Rodriguez, 27, who is a Mexican national residing in Kansas City, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to three years in federal prison without parole.

On June 3, 2003, **Rodriguez** pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between Oct. 1, 2002, and March 11, 2003.

The lead defendant in this indictment also has been sentenced for his involvement in the conspiracy.

On Oct. 2, 2003, **Arturo Fernandez**, 23, who also is a Mexican national living in Kansas City, was sentenced to 13 years and three months in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered that his interest in \$20,500 and a 1998 Chevrolet Blazer be forfeited to the United States.

Fernandez pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine on June 11, 2003. By pleading guilty, he admitted that distributed methamphetamine in the Kansas City metropolitan area between Oct. 1, 2002, and March 11, 2003.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael S. Oliver. The case was investigated by the Kansas City Metropolitan Drug Task Force.

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