



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEXAS MAN SENTENCED FOR COCAINE CONSPIRACY

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Brownsville, Texas, man was sentenced in federal court today for participating in a conspiracy to distribute cocaine in Missouri.

Oscar Alberto Sanchez, 29, of Brownsville, Texas, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to 10 years in federal prison without parole.

On Aug. 26, 2003, **Sanchez** pleaded guilty to a conspiracy to distribute at least five kilograms of cocaine from June 2001 to February 2003. **Sanchez** admitted that he negotiated a deal with an unnamed Jefferson City resident, who traveled to Texas to trade 1.5 kilos of cocaine for a car in July 2001. **Sanchez** also admitted that he negotiated another sale of cocaine in March 2003, at which time the Jefferson City resident traveled to Texas again to purchase 10 kilos of cocaine from **Sanchez** for \$130,000. During that transaction on March 26, 2003, Graves said, **Sanchez** was arrested.

Co-defendant **Ricardo Gonzalez**, 24, of San Benito, Texas, pleaded guilty on Nov. 4, 2003, to the same charge and awaits sentencing. Sanchez and Gonzalez are cousins.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony P. Gonzalez. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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