

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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THREE MEN SENTENCED IN COCAINE CONSPIRACY

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Springfield man and two Texas men were sentenced in federal court today for participating in a conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

Humberto Barrera, 23, and **Oscar Montano**, 22, both of Texas, were each sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith to five years in federal prison without parole. **Jorge Torres**, 25, of Springfield, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith to two years and six months in federal prison without parole.

Each of the defendants pleaded guilty to participating in a conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine in Greene County, Mo, from as early as Feb. 28, 2003 to March 20, 2003. **Barrera** and **Montano** traveled to Springfield on March 19, 2003, to distribute cocaine to **Torres**, Graves said. On the same day, **Torres** sold the cocaine he obtained from **Montano** and **Barrera** to individuals working in an undercover capacity.

Also on March 19, 2003, Graves said, law enforcement officers seized cocaine from a Springfield motel rom occupied by both **Barrera** and **Montano**. According to the defendants' plea agreements, the most readily provable amount of cocaine distributed during the conspiracy was between 500 grams and 2 kilograms.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Randall D. Eggert. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

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