



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

*United States Attorney Donald W. Washington
Western District of Louisiana*

United States Courthouse • 300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201 • Shreveport, Louisiana 71101-3068 • (318) 676-3600
United States Courthouse • 800 Lafayette Street, Suite 2200 • Lafayette, Louisiana 70501-7206 • (337) 262-6618

For Immediate Release
April 20, 2009

Contact: Donald W. Washington (337-262-6618)
William J. Flanagan (318-676-3600)

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/law>

SEVENTEEN INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED ON VARIOUS FEDERAL AND STATE NARCOTICS CHARGES

Lafayette, Louisiana . . . The United States Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana, Donald W. Washington, announced today the arrests of 17 individuals on various federal and state criminal charges involving crystal methamphetamine, cocaine and firearms violations investigated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Vermilion Parish Metro Narcotics Task Force and Lafayette Parish Metro Narcotics Task Force.

Many of the suspects were arrested during early morning raids in Lafayette, Vermilion and St. Landry Parishes, which were carried out by members of the DEA Lafayette Post of Duty, Vermilion Parish Sheriff's Office, Abbeville Police Department, St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office, U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

The federal and state charges involve a scheme to smuggle crystal methamphetamine and cocaine into the United States from Mexico and then transport the illegal drugs throughout the Acadiana area for distribution.

The following individuals were arrested Monday or previously incarcerated on other charges:

FEDERAL CHARGES:

- **DEMETRIO REGALADO**, of Erath, Louisiana;
- **JOSE LUIS REGALADO**, of Erath, Louisiana;
- **FRANCISCO DELGADO-GALAVIZ**, of Mexico;
- **ADOLFO ZIGA**, of Mexico;
- **COREY DOMINGUE**, of Opelousas, Louisiana;
- **TOBI DOMINGUE**, of Opelousas, Louisiana;
- **JULIAN BELTRAN**, of Mexico;
- **JOSE ANGEL RUIZ-CERVANTES**, of Mexico;
- **MARIA GUADALUPE REGALADO-OTERO**, of Abbeville, Louisiana;
- **AARON LANDRY**, of Lafayette, Louisiana;
- **AARON LOERA**, of Mexico; and
- **HECTOR IGNACIO ALVAREZ-VARELA**, of Mexico.

DEMETRIO REGALADO, JOSE LUIS REGALADO, DELGADO-GALAVIZ, ZIGA, COREY DOMINGUE, TOBI DOMINGUE, BELTRAN, RUIZ-CERVANTES, REGALADO-OTERO and LANDRY are each charged with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine and cocaine and possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine and cocaine. In addition to these charges, DELGADO-GALAVIZ, BELTRAN, RUIZ-CERVANTES, REGALADO-OTERO and LANDRY were charged with carrying of firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime.

LOERA was indicted in March 2009 for possession with intent to distribute cocaine (powder) and illegal alien in possession of firearm. ALVAREZ-VARELA was indicted in March 2009 for possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

STATE CHARGES:

- **JOHN OLD, JR.**, of Lafayette, Louisiana;
- **EUGENE BRIAN**, of Lafayette, Louisiana;
- **JOHN SAMSON**, of Lafayette, Louisiana;
- **GEORGE POMMIER**, of Lafayette, Louisiana; and
- **GARY STILES**, of Opelousas, Louisiana.

Lafayette DEA agents and Lafayette Parish Metro Narcotics Task Force are currently pursuing four individuals who remain at large.

United States Attorney Donald W. Washington stated: "Protecting communities from the scourge of illegal drugs and drug trafficking is a core obligation of this office and federal law enforcement. Illegal narcotics destroy the potential in many individuals to become contributing members of our society. We will continue to vigorously enforce federal narcotics laws."

Special Agent in Charge of the DEA's New Orleans Division, Jimmy S. Fox, III, stated: "These arrests are a result of an 18-month investigation made possible by combining resources at the federal, state and local level. DEA will continue to work closely with our law enforcement counterparts and arrest those individuals responsible for smuggling and distributing illegal drugs into our neighborhoods."

The Drug Enforcement Administration, Lafayette, Louisiana Post of Duty, is a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) initiative comprised of special agents of the DEA, and agents from the Iberia Parish Sheriff's Office, Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office, Lafayette Police Department, Vermilion Parish Sheriff's Office, St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office, Acadia Parish Sheriff's Office, St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office, Opelousas Police Department and the Louisiana National Guard. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley.

###