



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ILLEGAL ALIEN SENTENCED FOR GUNS AND DRUGS

(Beaumont, Texas) A 29-year-old man, illegally residing in Nacogdoches, has been sentenced to 70 months in federal prison for being an Alien in Possession of a Firearm during, and in relation to, a Drug Trafficking Crime. **ALFONSO MENDEZ** was sentenced yesterday by U.S. District Judge Thad Heartfield.

According to evidence presented in court, Mendez was arrested on September 5, 2003, when a search warrant executed at his residence in Nacogdoches revealed a 9mm pistol and plastic sandwich bags containing cocaine and marijuana. Mendez pleaded guilty to the gun charges on March 23, 2004.

Matthew D. Orwig, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, said, "Guns and drugs are a deadly combination and violators can expect hard time in prison."

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Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a comprehensive strategic approach to reducing gun violence in America by promoting partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

The case was investigated by the Deep East Texas Regional Narcotics Trafficking Task Force, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. Special Assistant United States Attorney Lisa Flournoy prosecuted the case.

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