

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

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May 10, 2010

RELEASE DATE

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APPROVED BY ANN BRAMSEN, ACTING D.A.

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May 10, 2010

JOINT LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATION

Today, the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office filed felony charges against 14 defendants who were arrested as a result of a major narcotics investigation involving the trafficking of illegal drugs and firearms by criminal street gang members and associates. Approximately 16 additional defendants are expected to be charged tomorrow.

The three month long investigation included the joint efforts of the DEA, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department and the Santa Maria Police Department. The investigation targeted local gang members who were engaged in the distribution of illegal drugs and firearms. The investigation revealed a pattern of cooperation between local criminal street gangs in the Santa Maria area to effectively sell illegal drugs and guns.

The 14 defendants who appeared in court today were charged with various felony offenses including drug sales, possession of drugs for sales, the illegal possession of firearms, and criminal street gang activity.