



NEWS RELEASE

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Massive Drug Ring Prosecution Comes to a Close

A major drug trafficking case involving the Los Primeros Padres prison gang concluded this week with the sentencing of the last of the defendants charged with violating Colorado's Organized Crime Control Act.

The case was the culmination of a year-long investigation by the North Metro Task Force called Operation Tattletale that resulted in charges filed against 47 individuals in Adams County in 2013. Agents from the task force and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration arrested 77 people and seized 20 weapons, including assault rifles and sawed-off shotguns on May 30, 2013. Some of the defendants were charged in Denver.

Robert Fidencio Vigil (DOB 05/07/85) was sentenced to 35 years in prison Monday after he was convicted on 49 counts, including pattern of racketeering under the COCCA statute, which is a Class 2 felony. He also was convicted of multiple other drug charges, including COCCA conspiracy, conspiracy to distribute, distribution of controlled substances and possession of controlled substances with intent to distribute. Vigil was the last of 12 defendants convicted of COCCA violations to be sentenced. They all received sentences ranging from 17 to 35 years in prison.

Another 35 people were charged with lesser drug offenses including conspiracy to distribute controlled substances. All of the cases have been concluded except for two defendants with outstanding warrants who are believed to be in Mexico.

The LPP gang began as a prison gang. As members were released from jail, they began importing methamphetamine and cocaine from Mexico and became a major drug trafficking organization, selling illegal drugs throughout the north metro area.

"I am very proud of the outstanding collaboration of all the law enforcement agencies involved in the investigation and prosecution of this serious drug enterprise," said District Attorney Dave Young. "Our prosecution team did an outstanding job pursuing justice in these cases."

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