



Prosecutor: Axxxxxx, Deputy District Attorney
345 Hall of Records - 320 West Temple Street : Los Angeles, CA 90012

DEMO Navigator ...

Phone: 213.xxx.xxxx

- > home: DurangoTango
- > evidence: Binders
- > evidence: Wire Taps

OPERATION:
DURANGO-TANGO - CAMACHO

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The data contained on this site arose in connection with a criminal investigation resulting in the arrest of a number of individuals who were later arraigned on various drug-related criminal charges.

This data was assembled by paperlessUSA in conjunction with the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration - and, more particularly, the Southern California Drug Task Force - for purposes of presenting the accused and/or his/her legal representation with the evidence that supported "criminal probable cause" which lead to arrests and charges being filed.

Data was made searchable thereby enabling investigators and attorneys (prosecution and defense) to look for specific telephone numbers and conversation(s) by and between accused defendants.

The speed of assimilating, integrating and delivering CDs eased an otherwise laborious process and cost far less than photocopying up to 80 SETS for attorneys, the Court and investigators.

Moreover, the searchability and mobility aspects of data increased proficiency of human and financial resources.

LOS ANGELES

4 Drug Cartel Cells Crushed; 41 Arrested

By ANNA GORMAN, TIMES STAFF WRITER

June 14, 2002

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-000041782jun14.story?null>

Four Los Angeles cells of the feared Arellano Felix drug cartel have been dismantled with the arrests of 41 suspects on trafficking charges in California and elsewhere in the country, authorities announced Thursday.

The sweep concluded an intensive two-year investigation and was part of a nationwide crackdown on the powerful Mexico-based cartel, which imports millions of dollars worth of cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine and marijuana into the United States every year." We have seriously damaged a large, sophisticated and--I can assure you--a very violent drug traffic organization," Los Angeles County Dist. Atty. Steve Cooley said at a joint news conference with officials from local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. More than 400 officers raided 31 sites in Los Angeles, Riverside and San Diego counties early Thursday.

They seized \$360,000 worth of cocaine, marijuana and heroin, nine handguns and eight assault rifles.

Search and arrest warrants also were executed Thursday in Minnesota, Connecticut, Arizona, New York and Mexico, officials said. Authorities were still looking for 36 more suspects.

The arrests in what authorities term Operation Vise Grip are the latest setback for the Arellano Felix organization, the powerful drug gang that has used violence and bribery to control drug trafficking along the Tijuana-San Diego corridor for more than a decade.

Cartel enforcer Ramon Arellano Felix was killed in a police shootout in Mazatlan in February. His brother, Benjamin, was seized by Mexican army soldiers weeks later.

The four dismantled Los Angeles cells all run independently, authorities said. Among those arrested Thursday were Rosario Uriarte and Juan Ramon Camacho, who authorities said are two of the city's top drug traffickers.

"We targeted from the highest levels of the organization down to the street level," said interim Los Angeles Police Chief Martin Pomeroy.

Authorities called the Los Angeles-based probe the largest domestic attack yet against the Arellano Felix cartel. Beginning in January 2000, investigators from 18 states aimed at its local operations.

Los Angeles cells are responsible for smuggling, transporting and distributing drugs to cities as far away as Boston, New York and Minneapolis, authorities said.

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