



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Carter M. Stewart
Southern District of Ohio

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2010
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ohs>

CONTACT: Fred Alverson
(614)469-5715

CALIFORNIA MAN SENTENCED TO 17 YEARS IMPRISONMENT ON DRUG CONSPIRACY CHARGES

DAYTON – Jose Jesus Villalba, age 41, of Riverside, California, was sentenced in United States District Court here to 17 years imprisonment on drug conspiracy charges stemming from his role in a cocaine trafficking ring between Ohio, California and Mexico.

Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, Eric Spradling, Resident Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration, announced the sentence delivered by District Judge Walter H. Rice today.

Villalba pleaded guilty on July 30, 2009 to one count of conspiracy to possess and possession with intent to distribute 5 kilograms or more of cocaine. According to the statement of facts filed in court, Villalba directed his relative to travel from Los Angeles, California to Ohio in 2006 to locate and rent a house in Xenia, Ohio to use as a base of operations and to store cocaine until it could be distributed. Court records further revealed that Villalba would facilitate the transportation and distribution of the cocaine from Mexican suppliers to the Xenia, Ohio stash house.

In early August 2008 Villalba directed another relative and a semi-truck driver to travel from Los Angeles, California to Fairborn, Ohio to pick up the cocaine distribution profits in order to pay his suppliers. The truck was met by DEA agents here while Villalba's co-conspirator was attempting to collect a briefcase containing \$205,000 in U.S. currency. Villalba was later arrested by DEA agents in Los Angeles on August 13, 2008 and has been in custody since his arrest.

Villalba was ordered to serve 10 years on supervised release after serving his prison term.

Stewart commended the efforts of DEA agents for their investigation of the case, and Assistant United States Attorney William Schenck, who prosecuted the case.

###