



# Department of Justice

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## **HOGSETT ANNOUNCES INDICTMENT OF FOUR ON FEDERAL DRUG, FIREARMS CHARGES**

*Defendants accused of trafficking methamphetamine, dozens of guns for Mexican drug cartel*

### PRESS RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS – Joseph H. Hogsett, the United States Attorney, announced today the return of a seven-count indictment of four central Indiana residents for a variety of federal drug and firearms offenses. The indictment describes a regional drug trafficking conspiracy, and alleges that the defendants played various roles in the illegal trafficking of assault rifles and other weapons from Indiana to a Mexican-based drug cartel.

“The allegations in this indictment describe individuals engaged in a deadly trade – importing dangerous drugs into Indiana, and exporting deadly firearms south of the border,” Hogsett said. “Our office has made a commitment to combat organized crime in this state, and this prosecution represents another important step toward that goal.”

The indictment alleges that from at least 2009, Hermion Torres acted as an organizer and leader of a marijuana, methamphetamine, and cocaine trafficking organization that operated throughout Southern Indiana, Western Kentucky, and elsewhere. It is alleged that Torres obtained the drugs from sources in Texas and Mexico, which were then brought to Indiana for distribution by Torres and others.

The indictment further alleges an international firearms trafficking conspiracy in which Torres, a convicted felon unable to legally purchase firearms, would solicit individuals to acquire weapons on his behalf. This practice is commonly known as making a “straw purchase,” and the indictment alleges that Torres compensated these individuals by trading money and/or drugs for the firearms.

Following the straw purchases, it is alleged that Torres arranged for the firearms to be transported to members of the “Gulf Cartel” in Texas and Mexico. The Gulf Cartel, also known