



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MAN INDICTED ON FEDERAL DRUG, FIREARMS, IMMIGRATION AND FINANCIAL  
STRUCTURING CHARGES**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced that in El Paso this afternoon, a federal grand jury returned a 35-count indictment against 30-year-old Ramon Eduardo Gandara, a United States citizen living in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, alleging drug trafficking, firearms, immigration and currency structuring violations.

Gandara is charged with importing and possessing with intent to deliver cocaine, importing and possessing with intent to deliver methamphetamine, carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking crime, seven counts each of making a false statement during the purchase of a firearm and illegal receipt of a firearm, attempting to bring an alien into the United States and 15 counts of structuring financial transactions in order to avoid reporting requirements. The indictment also contains a notice of criminal forfeiture whereby the government is seeking the forfeiture of items seized from the defendant, namely a 2008 Allegro motor home, four firearms, an assortment of computer related equipment and \$185,000—all proceeds of, or items used to facilitate, the alleged illegal activity.

According to court records:

- On November 4, 2008, the defendant intentionally imported from Mexico into the United States both cocaine and methamphetamine while in possession of a firearm. At the same time, the defendant attempted to bring a female illegal alien into the United States;
- The defendant purchased and took possession of firearms on numerous occasions between 2005 and 2008 after providing false information to federal firearms licensees. One such weapon, a FN 5.7 semi-automatic pistol, was recovered on August 13, 2008, by authorities in Mexico City after a criminal incident;
- From November 2006 until November 2007, the defendant made approximately 29 deposits into his bank account. Each bank deposit was between \$9,000 and \$10,000 and together, they totaled over \$180,000;

Gandara, who was arrested on November 4, 2008, at the Bridge of Americas Port of Entry, remains in federal custody without bond. Upon conviction, he faces up to life in federal prison.

**An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.**

This case was investigated by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Assistant United States Attorney J. Brandy Gardes is prosecuting this case on behalf of the government.

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