



# Texas Department of Public Safety

April 24, 2012

NEWS RELEASE

## **DPS Praises Announcement of Cartel Indictments** *DPS provided assistance in indictment effort*

AUSTIN – DPS officials and various other law enforcement agencies today joined the U.S. Attorney’s Office as they unsealed grand jury indictments, charging 24 Sinaloa Cartel members with violating the RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) Act, and alleging conspiracy to commit murder, kidnapping, money laundering and drug smuggling. DPS was one of many agencies that provided assistance in this effort.

United States Attorney Robert Pitman; the Drug Enforcement Administration; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives announced the indictments today in El Paso. The indictments include Sinaloa Cartel leaders “El Chapo” Guzman and “Mayo” Zambada.

“These ruthless cartel members are connected with gangs on the U.S. side of the border in a transnational criminal enterprise driven by profit and dependant on their ability to operate outside of the law,” said DPS Director Steven McCraw. “Anyone who stands in their way is at risk, so cooperative investigations like this one are vital to disrupting these criminal organizations and protecting our communities.”

In addition to the agencies mentioned above, the U.S. Attorney’s Office credited several other organizations in this effort, including the Immigration and Customs Enforcement-Homeland Security Investigations; the U.S. Border Patrol, Customs and Border Protection; the U.S. Marshals Service; the El Paso Police Department and the El Paso Sheriff’s Office.

“This case highlights the concerted and cooperative effort by law enforcement and federal prosecutors to combat the heinous acts of violence carried out by these drug trafficking organizations,” continued Director McCraw.

Four murders in Juarez, including a man kidnapped from Texas and a U.S. citizen from New Mexico, are outlined in the indictments and U.S. Attorney’s press release. For more information, visit [http://www.justice.gov/usao/tw/press\\_releases/2012/Sinaloa%20cartel%20EP%20indictment%20release.pdf](http://www.justice.gov/usao/tw/press_releases/2012/Sinaloa%20cartel%20EP%20indictment%20release.pdf).

### (HQ 2012-047)