THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of JUSTICE

United States Attorney's Office
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Contact: Public Affairs Officer
Phone: (503) 294-7992
USAOR.PublicAffairs@usdoj.gov

Mexican National Unlawfully Residing in the United States Pleads Guilty to Possessing More Than Four Kilograms of Heroin Intended for Distribution

PORTLAND, Ore. — A Mexican national unlawfully residing in the United States has pleaded guilty to possessing more than four kilograms of heroin with the intent to distribute the drug in Oregon, U.S. Attorney Scott E. Bradford announced today.

Obed Villa Senor Santos, 29, of Portland, pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute one kilogram or more of heroin, a crime that carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison and a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

"Individuals who unlawfully enter or remain in this country and engage in serious drug trafficking offenses will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," said **U.S. Attorney Scott E. Bradford.** "This guilty plea is an important step in ensuring justice and protecting our communities from the harm caused by illegal narcotics."

According to court documents, on Aug. 4, 2019, law enforcement officers received information that a multi-kilogram heroin delivery was expected in northeast Portland. Investigators identified Santos driving a Jeep Cherokee in the area and conducted a traffic stop. After Santos consented to a search of the vehicle, officers discovered approximately 2.3 kilograms of heroin concealed inside a paper bag.

Santos also consented to a search of his residence in Portland. There, investigators located a locked suitcase containing a car battery with a hidden compartment. Inside the hidden compartment, officers found an additional 2.3 kilograms of heroin packaged in a manner similar to the heroin recovered from the vehicle.

Laboratory testing confirmed the seized narcotics contained heroin. In total, investigators recovered approximately 4.4 kilograms of heroin intended for distribution.

Santos is scheduled to be sentenced on March 10, 2027.

This case was investigated by the Gresham Police Department, the Oregon State Police, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher Cardani.

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