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CLERK US DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

1 TIMOTHY COURCHAINED  
 2 United States Attorney  
 3 District of Arizona  
 4 MICHAEL R. LIZANO  
 5 Assistant U.S. Attorney  
 6 United States Courthouse  
 7 405 W. Congress Street, Suite 4800  
 8 Tucson, Arizona 85701  
 9 Telephone: 520-620-7300  
 10 Email: michael.perez-lizano@usdoj.gov  
 11 Attorneys for Plaintiff

**CR26-01041 TUC-SHR(JEM)**

7 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 8 FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

9 United States of America,  
 10  
 11 Plaintiff,

Case No.:

**INDICTMENT**  
**(UNDER SEAL)**

12 vs.

Violations:

13 Jorge Luis Castro-Mercado,  
 14  
 15 Defendant.

21 U.S.C. § 848  
 (Continuing Criminal Enterprise)  
 Count 1

21 U.S.C. § 846  
 (Conspiracy to Distribute Fentanyl  
 and Methamphetamine)  
 Count 2

21 U.S.C. § 963  
 (Conspiracy to Import  
 Fentanyl and Methamphetamine)  
 Count 3

18 U.S.C. § 1956(h)  
 (Conspiracy to Launder Monetary  
 Instruments)  
 Count 4

21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) and  
 841(b)(1)(A)(vi), 18 U.S.C. § 2  
 (Possession with Intent to Distribute  
 Fentanyl, Aiding and Abetting)  
 Counts 5, 9, and 11

21 U.S.C. § 952(a) and §§ 960(a)(1)  
 and 960(b)(1)(F)  
 (Importation of Fentanyl)  
 Counts 6, 10, and 12

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21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) and  
841(b)(1)(A)(viii), 18 U.S.C. § 2  
(Possession with Intent to Distribute  
Methamphetamine, Aiding and  
Abetting)  
Count 7

21 U.S.C. § 952(a) and §§ 960(a)(1)  
and 960(b)(1)(H)  
(Importation of Methamphetamine)  
Count 8

21 U.S.C. § 853  
18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1)  
Forfeiture Allegation

**(UNDER SEAL)**

**THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:**

**COUNT 1**

Beginning at a time unknown, and continuously thereafter up through and including February 3, 2025, in the District of Arizona and elsewhere, JORGE LUIS CASTRO-MERCADO did unlawfully, knowingly, and intentionally engage in a continuing criminal enterprise in that he unlawfully, knowingly, and intentionally violated Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841, 846, 952, 960, and 963, which violations include, but are not limited to, the substantive controlled substance felony violations of possession with intent to distribute fentanyl, as alleged in Counts 5, 9, and 11; importation of fentanyl, as alleged in Counts 6, 10, and 12; possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, as alleged in Count 7; and importation of methamphetamine, as alleged in Count 8; which violations of said statutes were part of a continuing series of violations of the Controlled Substances Act, Title 21, United States Code, Section 801, et seq., undertaken by JORGE LUIS CASTRO-MERCADO in concert with at least five other persons with respect to whom JORGE LUIS CASTRO-MERCADO occupied a position of organizer, supervisor, and manager, and from which such continuing series of violations JORGE LUIS CASTRO-MERCADO obtained substantial income and resources.

Furthermore, the defendant, JORGE LUIS CASTRO-MERCADO, was a principal administrator, organizer, supervisor, and leader of the criminal enterprise, which involved

1 importation and possession with intent to distribute mixtures and substances containing  
2 detectable amount of methamphetamine, a Schedule II controlled substance; and fentanyl,  
3 also a Schedule II controlled substance; and the amount of said mixtures and substances  
4 was at least 300 times the quantity of substances listed in Title 21, United States Code,  
5 Section 841(b)(1)(B); and in the case of methamphetamine or its salts, isomers, or salts of  
6 isomers, the amount of said mixtures and substances was at least 200 times the quantity of  
7 substances listed in Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(b)(1)(B).

8 All in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 848(a), (b), and (s).

9 **COUNT 2**

10 Beginning at a time unknown, to on or about February 3, 2025, in the District of  
11 Arizona and elsewhere, JORGE LUIS CASTRO-MERCADO did knowingly and  
12 intentionally combine, conspire, confederate, and agree with persons known and unknown  
13 to the Grand Jury to distribute 400 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing a  
14 detectable amount of fentanyl, a Schedule II controlled substance, in violation of Title 21,  
15 United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A)(vi); and 50 grams or more of  
16 methamphetamine, or 500 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable  
17 amount of methamphetamine, a Schedule II controlled substance, in violation of Title 21,  
18 United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A)(viii).

19 All in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846.

20 **COUNT 3**

21 Beginning at a time unknown, to on or about February 3, 2025, in the District of  
22 Arizona and elsewhere, JORGE LUIS CASTRO-MERCADO did knowingly and  
23 intentionally combine, conspire, confederate, and agree with persons known and unknown  
24 to the Grand Jury, to import into the United States from the Republic of Mexico 400 grams  
25 or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of fentanyl, a Schedule  
26 II controlled substance; in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 952(a),  
27 960(a)(1), and 960(b)(1)(F); and 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, or 500 grams or  
28 more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, a

1 Schedule II controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections  
2 952(a), 960(a)(1), and 960(b)(1)(H).

3 All in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 963.

4 **COUNT 4**

5 Beginning at a time unknown, to on or about February 3, 2025, in the District of  
6 Arizona and elsewhere, JORGE LUIS CASTRO-MERCADO did knowingly and  
7 intentionally combine, conspire, confederate, and agree with persons known and unknown  
8 to the Grand Jury to commit offenses against the United States in violation of Title 18,  
9 United States Code, Section 1956(a)(2)(A), to wit: to knowingly transport, transmit, and  
10 transfer monetary instruments and funds from a place in the United States to and through  
11 a place outside the United States, with the intent to promote the carrying on of specified  
12 unlawful activity, that is the distribution of controlled substances, in violation of Title 21,  
13 United States Code, Section 841(a)(1).

14 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h).

15 **COUNT 5**

16 On or about September 9, 2022, in the District of Arizona, JORGE LUIS CASTRO-  
17 MERCADO did knowingly and intentionally possess with intent to distribute 400 grams  
18 or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of fentanyl, a Schedule  
19 II controlled substance; and did aid, abet, counsel, command, induce, procure, and cause  
20 the same, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and  
21 841(b)(1)(A)(vi); Title 18, United States Code, Section 2; and *Pinkerton v. United States*,  
22 328 U.S. 640 (1946).

23 **COUNT 6**

24 On or about September 9, 2022, in the District of Arizona, JORGE LUIS CASTRO-  
25 MERCADO did knowingly and intentionally import into the United States from the  
26 Republic of Mexico 400 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable  
27 amount of fentanyl, a Schedule II controlled substance; and did aid, abet, counsel,  
28 command, induce, procure, and cause the same, in violation of Title 21, United States

1 Code, Sections 952(a), 960(a)(1), and 960(b)(1)(F); Title 18, United States Code, Section  
2 2; and *Pinkerton v. United States*, 328 U.S. 640 (1946).

3 **COUNT 7**

4 On or about September 9, 2022, in the District of Arizona, JORGE LUIS CASTRO-  
5 MERCADO did knowingly and intentionally possess with intent to distribute 50 grams or  
6 more of methamphetamine, or 500 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing a  
7 detectable amount of methamphetamine, a Schedule II controlled substance; and did aid,  
8 abet, counsel, command, induce, procure, and cause the same, in violation of Title 21,  
9 United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A)(viii); Title 18, United States  
10 Code, Section 2; and *Pinkerton v. United States*, 328 U.S. 640 (1946).

11 **COUNT 8**

12 On or about September 9, 2022, in the District of Arizona, JORGE LUIS CASTRO-  
13 MERCADO did knowingly and intentionally import into the United States from the  
14 Republic of Mexico 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, or 500 grams or more of a  
15 mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, a Schedule II  
16 controlled substance; and did aid, abet, counsel, command, induce, procure, and cause the  
17 same, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 952(a), 960(a)(1), and  
18 960(b)(1)(H); Title 18, United States Code, Section 2; and *Pinkerton v. United States*, 328  
19 U.S. 640 (1946).

20 **COUNT 9**

21 On or about April 30, 2023, in the District of Arizona, JORGE LUIS CASTRO-  
22 MERCADO did knowingly and intentionally possess with intent to distribute 400 grams  
23 or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of fentanyl, a Schedule  
24 II controlled substance; and did aid, abet, counsel, command, induce, procure, and cause  
25 the same, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and  
26 841(b)(1)(A)(vi); Title 18, United States Code, Section 2; and *Pinkerton v. United States*,  
27 328 U.S. 640 (1946).

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**COUNT 10**

On or about April 30, 2023, in the District of Arizona, JORGE LUIS CASTRO-MERCADO did knowingly and intentionally import into the United States from the Republic of Mexico 400 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of fentanyl, a Schedule II controlled substance; and did aid, abet, counsel, command, induce, procure, and cause the same, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 952(a), 960(a)(1), and 960(b)(1)(F); Title 18, United States Code, Section 2; and *Pinkerton v. United States*, 328 U.S. 640 (1946).

**COUNT 11**

On or about June 1, 2024, in the District of Arizona, JORGE LUIS CASTRO-MERCADO did knowingly and intentionally possess with intent to distribute 400 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of fentanyl, a Schedule II controlled substance; and did aid, abet, counsel, command, induce, procure, and cause the same, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A)(vi); Title 18, United States Code, Section 2; and *Pinkerton v. United States*, 328 U.S. 640 (1946).

**COUNT 12**

On or about June 1, 2024, in the District of Arizona, JORGE LUIS CASTRO-MERCADO did knowingly and intentionally import into the United States from the Republic of Mexico 400 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of fentanyl, a Schedule II controlled substance; and did aid, abet, counsel, command, induce, procure, and cause the same, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 952(a), 960(a)(1), and 960(b)(1)(F); Title 18, United States Code, Section 2; and *Pinkerton v. United States*, 328 U.S. 640 (1946).

**FORFEITURE ALLEGATION**

Upon conviction of one or more of the offenses alleged in Counts One through Three and Five through Twelve of this Indictment, defendant, Jorge Luis Castro-Mercado, shall forfeit to the United States pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853, all right,

1 title, and interest in (1) any property, real or personal constituting, or derived from, any  
2 proceeds the defendant obtained, directly or indirectly, as the result of the said violations,  
3 and (2) any property used, or intended to be used, in any manner or part, to commit, or to  
4 facilitate, the commission of the said violations.

5 Upon conviction of Count Four of this Indictment, defendant, Jorge Luis Castro-  
6 Mercado, shall forfeit to the United States pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section  
7 982(a)(1) all right, title, and interest in any property constituting, or derived from, any  
8 proceeds the person obtained, directly or indirectly, as the result of the said violation.

9 If any of the forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:  
10 (1) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence; (2) has been transferred or sold  
11 to, or deposited with, a third party; (3) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;  
12 (4) has been substantially diminished in value; or (5) has been commingled with other  
13 property which cannot be divided without difficulty; it is the intent of the United States,  
14 pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p) to seek forfeiture of any other  
15 property of said defendant up to the value of the above forfeitable property, including but  
16 not limited to all property, both real and personal, owned by the defendant.

17 All pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853; Title 18, United States  
18 Code, Section 982(a)(1); and Rule 32.2.(a), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

19  
20 A TRUE BILL

21 /s/  
22 FOREPERSON OF THE GRAND JURY  
Date: March 11, 2026

23  
24 TIMOTHY COURCHAINED  
United States Attorney  
25 District of Arizona

REDACTED FOR  
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

26 /s/  
27 MICHAEL R. LIZANO  
Assistant U.S. Attorney