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Indictment of Kingpins Press Conference
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Good Morning. I want to start by thanking the Attorney General for recognizing the dedication and talent of the many DEA agents who worked these cases. Many of the case agents are here with us today at the Press Conference. Today's indictments are yet another strike against the leadership of the Mexican drug cartels. Our relentless investigations penetrated deep into these pervasive criminal organizations, connecting street operations in U.S. communities like Chicago and New York to the top drug kingpins calling the shots in Mexico. Make no mistake; along with our courageous partners in Mexico, we will break these cartels and pursue their leaders.

In these cases, we documented the direct involvement of CPOTs (the kingpins) in the Sinaloa and Juarez Cartels, and the Los Gueros drug trafficking organization. They and the organizations they lead are responsible for terrorizing communities in Mexico, and for smuggling ton-quantities of cocaine, large amounts of heroin, and other dangerous drugs into the United States each year.

Specifically, DEA in Chicago, and DEA and ICE in New York established direct connections from the streets of Chicago and New York to ten "drug kingpins" at the highest command and control levels of their organizations. This led to the unsealing of indictments in Chicago, including Sinaloa CPOTs Arturo Beltran-Leyva, Ismael Zambada-Garcia, and Joaquin Guzman-Loera (aka Chapo Guzman). We also have new indictments in the Eastern District of New York against

Vicente Carrillo Fuentes, a leader of the Juarez Cartel, and Esteban and Luis Rodriguez Olivera of the Los Gueros drug trafficking organization.

The Mexico-based Sinaloa Cartel, also known as “The Federation,” is among the most violent and insidious of these organizations. Working closely with our brave partners in Mexico, we’re keeping unrelenting pressure on The Federation, as well as the Juarez Cartel and the other Mexican drug cartels. We are determined to dismantle the cartels and their domestic cells.

During the course of these investigations, DEA and our partners made noteworthy seizures of drugs and assets, including more than \$22.6 million in cash, more than 32,500 kilograms of cocaine, and 64 kilograms of heroin.

Many of these notorious criminals appear on the “Most Wanted” lists of both the Mexican and American governments. In fact, for many of the Cartel leaders, the United States offers rewards of up to \$5 million each for information that leads to their arrest or capture. There are fewer and fewer places for these criminals to hide.

Looking forward, we are committed to tracking down the leaders of these Mexican drug trafficking cartels, and sustaining pressure on their organizations and operations. With our Mexican law enforcement partners, we will find them, and we will bring them to justice.

Thank you. ### (400 words)