

## **TREASURY DESIGNATES DUAL COLOMBIAN-MEXICAN CITIZEN TIED TO THE SINALOA CARTEL**

The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) today designated Jorge Luis Llanos Gazia and two Mexican companies as Specially Designated Narcotics Traffickers (SDNTs) pursuant to the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (Kingpin Act). OFAC designated Llanos Gazia because of his support for and actions on behalf of the Sinaloa Cartel and previously-designated SDNT Agustin Reyes Garza (a.k.a. "*Don Pilo*"). As a result of today's action, U.S. persons are prohibited from conducting financial or commercial transactions with the designees and any assets the designees may have under U.S. jurisdiction are frozen.

The Sinaloa Cartel, a powerful and violent Mexican drug trafficking organization, is led by Joaquin Guzman Loera (a.k.a. "*Chapo Guzman*") and Ismael Zambada Garcia (a.k.a. "*El Mayo*"). These two individuals and the cartel itself have been previously identified by the President as Significant Foreign Narcotics Traffickers pursuant to the Kingpin Act. OFAC previously designated Mexican national Agustin Reyes Garza as an SDNT on December 15, 2009 because of his support to the narcotics trafficking activities of Sinaloa Cartel.

Jorge Luis Llanos Gazia provides services in support of the narcotics trafficking activities of the Sinaloa Cartel and Reyes Garza. Llanos Gazia was born in Cali, Colombia but has obtained Mexican citizenship and is also a national of Italy. Llanos Gazia previously served a prison sentence in the United States in relation to federal cocaine trafficking charges. After completing his sentence in 1995, Llanos Gazia moved to Mexico and eventually resumed his involvement in narcotics trafficking activities.

Also designated today are two Mexican companies owned and/or controlled by Llanos Gazia. *Audio Alarmas, S.A. de C.V.*, an alarm system company, and *Basaltos Tonalá, S.A. de C.V.*, a construction materials company, are both located near Guadalajara, Mexico.

OFAC worked closely with the Drug Enforcement Administration on this investigation. Today's action is part of ongoing efforts pursuant to the Kingpin Act to apply financial measures against significant foreign narcotics traffickers worldwide. Internationally, more than 1000 individuals and entities linked to drug kingpins named by the President and the Department of the Treasury have been designated pursuant to the Kingpin Act since June 2000. Penalties for violations of the Kingpin Act range from civil penalties of up to \$1.075 million per violation to more severe criminal penalties. Criminal penalties for corporate officers may include up to 30 years in prison and fines up to \$5 million. Criminal fines for corporations may reach \$10 million. Other individuals face up to 10 years in prison and fines pursuant to Title 18 of the United States Code for criminal violations of the Kingpin Act.