



*U.S. Department of Justice*

*Kenneth J. Gonzales*

*United States Attorney*

*District of New Mexico*

*201 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW*

*Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102*

CONTACT: *Elizabeth M. Martinez, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Public Affairs Officer*  
[elizabeth.martinez@usdoj.gov](mailto:elizabeth.martinez@usdoj.gov) – 505-224-1469

---

PRESS RELEASE

---

**For Immediate Release**

**November 17, 2010**

**MEXICAN NATIONAL CONVICTED OF MAKING FALSE  
STATEMENTS WHILE ATTEMPTING TO PURCHASE FIREARM**

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales announced that, on November 16, 2010, a federal jury sitting in Albuquerque, New Mexico convicted **Juan Antonio Orozco-Orozco**, a 29 year old Mexican national, of making false statements after a two-day trial before United States District Judge Judith C. Herrera. The jury found Orozco-Orozco guilty of three felony offenses: (i) making false statement during the attempted purchase of a firearm; (ii) making a false declaration of U.S. citizenship; and (iii) making a false statement in an immigration document. The jury was unable to reach a verdict on a charge that Orozco-Orozco was an alien unlawfully in possession of a firearm.

According to the allegations in the Indictment and the evidence presented at trial, while attempting to purchase a firearm at a Wal-Mart store in Espanola, New Mexico, on August 23, 2009, Orozco-Orozco completed documentation required by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) in which he denied being an alien illegally in the United States and instead claimed to be a U.S. citizen.

Although Orozco-Orozco's application to purchase a firearm was denied on August 26, 2009 by the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, his effort to purchase a firearm triggered an investigation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Through investigation, ICE agents determined that Orozco-Orozco had been arrested on January 4, 2001 for being present in the United States without proper admission and administratively returned to Mexico. The ICE agents also determined that Orozco-Orozco had not obtained permission to legally enter or be present in the United States at any time.

Trial testimony revealed that Orozco-Orozco was arrested by the New Mexico State Police (NMSP) on an outstanding traffic warrant on April 15, 2010 and was transferred to ICE on April 19, 2010. Orozco-Orozco has been in federal custody since that time and will remain in custody pending sentencing, which has yet to be set. Orozco-Orozco faces up to ten years imprisonment based on his conviction.

This case was investigated by ICE with assistance from BATEF and the NMSP, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Norman Cairns and Lynn Wei-Yu Wang.

###