



Poway man arrested in federal drug sweep

Published 07/25/2010 - 8:56 a.m.

SAN DIEGO (CNS) - Thirty-one of 43 suspects named in a federal drug trafficking conspiracy, including a 20-year-old Poway man, are behind bars, most of them in San Diego County.

Federal agents arrested 27 people around San Diego County, and four were arrested in Mexico on conspiracy and racketeering charges that include murder, kidnapping, drug smuggling and money laundering. Among the arrested is Mikael Daniel Blaser, 20, of Poway, who the FBI said uses the street name "Troubles."

The defendants are associated with the Fernando Sanchez Organization, an offshoot of the notorious but now largely dismantled Arellano-Felix cartel. At least five suspects believed to be in the United States were being sought, U.S. Attorney Laura Duffy said.

Published reports said prosecutors believe Blaser ran the cartel's drug and weapons stash house, distributed drugs and was the enforcer who attempted murders and robberies. Authorities said the price of a hit was about \$3,000.

According to prosecutors, the man at the center of one attempted killing was Blaser. He had been assigned to kill a cartel member who had disrespected leadership.

This is an incredibly important case," FBI Special Agent in Charge Keith Slotter said Friday.

"Today we are rewarded with dozens of arrests that truly have an impact on safety and well-being within our local communities."