



Fresno County Sheriff's Office

Margaret Mims, Sheriff-Coroner

December 24, 2015

News Release

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Methamphetamine Conversion Lab Bust

Fresno County Sheriff's deputies have booked Francisco Solis-Gonzalez, 27, of Fresno into the Fresno County Jail. He is facing felony charges of drug manufacturing and child endangerment. His total bail amount has been set for \$150,000.

Around 11:00 pm on Wednesday, deputies responded to a call of shots fired on the 4100 block of E. North Ave. in Fresno. A deputy saw a muzzle flash of a gun coming from the backyard of a nearby home. A group of people were having a barbecue at this house and doing target shooting with an AK-47 rifle. Deputies detained eight adults at the home for questioning. During a check of the house for additional people, deputies found evidence of an active methamphetamine lab.

Members of the Fresno Methamphetamine Task Force (FMTF) were notified and obtained a search warrant for the home. FMTF is comprised of members from the Fresno County Sheriff's Office, California Highway Patrol, Fresno Police Department, California Department of Justice and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

FMTF members found many chemicals and pieces of equipment commonly used as part of a Methamphetamine Ice Conversion Lab. These labs often have a renter who obtains liquid methamphetamine from Mexico. Their job is to convert the liquid meth into crystal form using the chemical Acetone. The final product is broken up and packaged for sale.

In this case, a total of 8.6 lbs. of crystal meth was found, which has an approximate street value of \$35,000. Francisco Solis-Gonzalez is a renter who has been occupying this home for the last three months. He was using the closet inside the master bedroom as his space to convert the drug. It is estimated that he was producing 80 – 100 lbs. each month.

There were also two small children under the age of six who were living in this home. The chemicals used during the process produce a lot of toxic fumes and are highly flammable. This put the people inside the house and neighbors in jeopardy of being sick, injured or killed.

Health officials performed tests inside the home to determine had badly it is contaminated. Those results will be turned over to the property owner, who will have the responsibility of cleaning up the house before he is legally allowed to rent it out again. The cleaning costs can easily be tens of thousands of dollars.

The other seven people were questioned and released. They were determined to be guests at the barbecue. The two children are now staying with family members at another location. The AK-47 and a Glock handgun were taken and booked into evidence. The AK-47 had a 30-round magazine attached to it, which is illegal in California.

The Sheriff's Office takes all tips seriously and encourages the public to report suspected illegal drug activity. If you are aware of any of this behavior, report it anonymously by calling the Narcotics Hotline at 1-800-660-1086 or email: drugtip@fresnosheriff.org You may also call Crime Stoppers at 498-7867. Your tip may make you eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000.

