

Operations "Bootlegger"

Under the direction of Sacramento County Sheriff Lou Blanas, the Sacramento Valley Hi-Technology Crimes Task Force (SVHTCTF), Commanded by Captain Wayne Ikeuchi, along with United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California McGregor W. Scott, and Resident Agent-in-Charge Brady Mills, United States Secret Service, arrested Jesus Becerra Huerta, 48, and Rosa Isela Huerta, 39, today in Stockton, California. The couple resides in the Stockton area. The Huerta's were arrested and charged with criminal copyright infringement and trademark violations. The charges stem from the defendants alleged large scale and illegal distribution of copyrighted movie DVDs and music CDs from locations in Stockton and San Jose.

The arrests were coordinated with Rapid Enforcement Allied Computer Task Force ("REACT"), which also made multiple arrests and executed search warrants earlier this morning in the San Francisco Bay Area. The REACT case targeted the illegal replication of popular music videos and movies.

This case is the product of an extensive/joint investigation by the Sacramento Valley High Tech Crimes Task Force, which is comprised of more than thirty federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, including the United States Secret Service, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Motion Picture Association of America ("MPAA"), and the Recording Industry Association of America ("RIAA") also assisted with the case.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Robin R. Taylor, who is prosecuting the case, the criminal complaint alleges that from approximately September 2005, through the present, Jesus Becerra Huerta and his wife, Rosa Isela Huerta, unlawfully distributed counterfeit movies and music from a storefront located in Stockton, California, where more than 50,000 counterfeit units were seized. They defendants are also alleged to have distributed counterfeit movies and music at a second location in San Jose, California.

The defendants, without authorization, sold DVDs of new-release movies, such as, *Deuce Bigalow European Gigalo*, *Hustle & Flow*, *The Island*, *Underclassman*, *Transporter 2*, *The Wedding Crashers*, *Four Brothers*, *The Skeleton Key*, *The 40 Year Old Virgin*, *The Man*, and *War of the Worlds*, which were only playing in theaters, and not yet released to DVD format, as well as a variety of Spanish and English music titles. Most movies were sold for approximately \$2 per unit. According to the MPAA and the RIAA, illegal duplication causes losses to

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copyright and trademark owners, which impedes the owners' ability to create and promote new movies and music. MPAA states that the value of an illegally recorded movie, which has not been released to DVD, is between \$1,000 and \$2,500 per movie based on the fact that a single licensing fee for such a movie ranges from \$1,000 to \$2,500, with the average being \$1,900.

If convicted, the defendants face a maximum penalty under federal law of 10 years in prison, a fine of \$2 million, or both, for a first offense. After a conviction, the maximum increases to 20 years in prison, a fine of not more than \$5 million, or both.

The charges are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Sacramento Valley Hi-Technology Crimes Task Force, Operations Commander, Lt. Bob Lozito will be the point of contact for inquiries. He can be reached at 916-874-3030.