

**FILED**  
Oct 09 2025  
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
BY S/A Cortez DEPUTY

ORDERED UNSEALED on 02/26/2026 s/

**SEALED**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

April 2024 Grand Jury

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
Plaintiff,

v.

RENE ARZATE GARCIA,  
aka "La Rana,"  
aka "General,"  
aka "Dad,"  
aka "Apa,"  
Defendant.

Case No. 14CR2122-DMS

I N D I C T M E N T  
(Superseding)

Title 21, U.S.C., Sec. 848(a) - Continuing Criminal Enterprise; Title 21, U.S.C., Secs. 960a, 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A) - Narcoterrorism; Title 18, U.S.C., Sec. 2339B - Providing Material Support to Foreign Terrorist Organization; Title 18, U.S.C., Sec. 2 - Aiding and Abetting; Title 21, U.S.C., Secs. 952, 959, 960, and 963 - International Conspiracy to Distribute Controlled Substances; Title 21, U.S.C., Secs. 841(a)(1) and 846 - Conspiracy to Distribute Controlled Substances; Title 21, U.S.C., Secs. 952, 960 and 963 - Conspiracy to Import Controlled Substances; Title 18, U.S.C., Sec. 1956(h) - Conspiracy to Launder Monetary Instruments; Title 21, U.S.C., Sec. 853, Title 18, U.S.C., Secs. 981(a)(1)(C) and (G) and 982, and Title 28, U.S.C., Sec. 2461(c) - Criminal Forfeiture

The grand jury charges:

At all times relevant to this Indictment:

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**INTRODUCTION**

1  
2 1. On February 20, 2025, upon publication in the Federal  
3 Register, the United States Secretary of State, in consultation with the  
4 Attorney General, designated the *Cártel de Sinaloa*, aka "Sinaloa  
5 Cartel," aka "Mexican Federation," aka "Guadalajara Cartel," as a  
6 foreign terrorist organization, after finding that the organization  
7 engages in terrorist activity.

8 **Count 1**

9 **(Continuing Criminal Enterprise)**

10 **[21 U.S.C. § 848(a)]**

11 2. Beginning at a date unknown to the grand jury and continuing  
12 up to and including the date of this Indictment, within the Southern  
13 District of California, the country of Mexico, and elsewhere, defendant  
14 RENE ARZATE GARCIA, aka "La Rana," aka "General," aka "Dad," aka "Apa,"  
15 together with others known and unknown to the grand jury, did knowingly  
16 and intentionally engage in a continuing criminal enterprise, in that  
17 defendant RENE ARZATE GARCIA, aka "La Rana," aka "General," aka "Dad,"  
18 aka "Apa," committed violations of Title 21, United States Code,  
19 Sections 841(a)(1), 846, 952, 959, 960, and 963, including Counts 2  
20 through 4 set forth below, which violations were part of a continuing  
21 series of violations of those statutes undertaken by defendant RENE  
22 ARZATE GARCIA, aka "La Rana," aka "General," aka "Dad," aka "Apa," in  
23 concert with five or more other persons with respect to whom defendant  
24 occupied a position of organizer, supervisor and any position of  
25 management, and from which such continuing series of violations  
26 defendant obtained substantial income and resources; all in violation  
27 of Title 21, United States Code, Section 848(a).

Count 2

(Narcoterrorism)

[21 U.S.C. §§ 960a, 841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(A) & 18 U.S.C. § 2]

3. The allegations in Paragraph 1 are incorporated.

4. Beginning at a date unknown to the grand jury and continuing up to and including the date of this Indictment, in the country of Mexico, and elsewhere, defendant RENE ARZATE GARCIA, aka "La Rana," aka "General," aka "Dad," aka "Apa," who will first enter the United States in the Southern District of California, did knowingly and intentionally engage and attempt to engage in conduct in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce and that would be punishable under Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1), if committed within the jurisdiction of the United States, that is, to knowingly and intentionally manufacture, distribute and possess with intent to distribute 500 grams and more of a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, a Schedule II Controlled Substance; 400 grams and more of a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propanamide (commonly known as fentanyl), a Schedule II Controlled Substance; 5 kilograms and more of cocaine, a Schedule II Controlled Substance; and 1,000 kilograms and more of marijuana, a Schedule I Controlled Substance; knowing and intending to provide directly and indirectly, anything of pecuniary value to any person and organization that has engaged and engages in terrorist activity and terrorism, having knowledge that the said persons and organization has engaged and engages in terrorist activity and terrorism; all in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 960a, 841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(A), and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

1 Count 3

2 **(Providing Material Support to Foreign Terrorist Organization)**

3 [18 U.S.C. §§ 2339B(a) (1) & 2]

4 5. The allegations in Paragraph 1 are incorporated.

5 6. Beginning at a date unknown to the grand jury and continuing  
6 up to and including the date of this Indictment, in an offense occurring  
7 in an affecting interstate and foreign commerce, and begun and committed  
8 outside of the jurisdiction of any particular state or district of the  
9 United States, defendant RENE ARZATE GARCIA, aka "La Rana," aka  
10 "General," aka "Dad," aka "Apa," who will first enter the United States  
11 in the Southern District of California after the conduct required for  
12 this offense occurred, did knowingly engage and attempt to engage in  
13 conduct to provide material support and resources: to wit, personnel and  
14 services, to the *Cártel de Sinaloa*, a foreign terrorist organization,  
15 which was designated a foreign terrorist organization on February 20,  
16 2025 by the United States Secretary of State, knowing that the  
17 *Cártel de Sinaloa* had engaged in and was engaging in terrorist activity  
18 and terrorism; all in violation of Title 18, United States Code,  
19 Section 2339B(a) (1), and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

20 Count 4

21 **(International Conspiracy to Distribute Controlled Substances)**

22 [21 U.S.C. §§ 952, 959, 960 & 963]

23 7. Beginning at a date unknown to the grand jury and continuing  
24 up to and including the date of this Indictment, within the country of  
25 Mexico, and elsewhere, defendant RENE ARZATE GARCIA, aka "La Rana," aka  
26 "General," aka "Dad," aka "Apa," who will first enter the United States  
27 in the Southern District of California, did knowingly and intentionally  
28 conspire with other persons known and unknown to the grand jury, to

1 distribute and cause the distribution of 500 grams and more of a mixture  
2 and substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, a  
3 Schedule II Controlled Substance; 400 grams and more of a mixture and  
4 substance containing a detectable amount of N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-  
5 phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propanamide (commonly known as fentanyl), a  
6 Schedule II Controlled Substance; 5 kilograms and more of cocaine, a  
7 Schedule II Controlled Substance; and 1,000 kilograms and more of  
8 marijuana, a Schedule I Controlled Substance; intending, knowing and  
9 having reasonable cause to believe that such Controlled Substances would  
10 be unlawfully imported into the United States; all in violation of  
11 Title 21, United States Code, Sections 952, 959, 960, and 963.

12 **Count 5**

13 **(Conspiracy to Distribute Controlled Substances)**

14 **[21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) & 846]**

15 8. Beginning at a date unknown to the grand jury and continuing  
16 up to and including the date of this Indictment, within the Southern  
17 District of California, and elsewhere, defendant RENE ARZATE GARCIA,  
18 aka "La Rana," aka "General," aka "Dad," aka "Apa," did knowingly and  
19 intentionally conspire with other persons known and unknown to the grand  
20 jury to distribute 500 grams and more of a mixture and substance  
21 containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, a Schedule II  
22 Controlled Substance; 400 grams and more of a mixture and substance  
23 containing a detectable amount of N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-  
24 piperidinyl] propanamide (commonly known as fentanyl), a Schedule II  
25 Controlled Substance; 5 kilograms and more of cocaine, a Schedule II  
26 Controlled Substance; and 1,000 kilograms and more of marijuana, a  
27 Schedule I Controlled Substance; all in violation of Title 21, United  
28 States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846.

1 Count 6

2 (Conspiracy to Import Controlled Substances)

3 [21 U.S.C. §§ 952, 960 & 963]

4 9. Beginning at a date unknown to the grand jury and continuing  
5 up to and including the date of this Indictment, within the Southern  
6 District of California, and elsewhere, defendant RENE ARZATE GARCIA, aka  
7 "La Rana," aka "General," aka "Dad," aka "Apa," did knowingly and  
8 intentionally conspire with other persons known and unknown to the grand  
9 jury, to import 500 grams and more of a mixture and substance containing  
10 a detectable amount of methamphetamine, a Schedule II Controlled  
11 Substance; 400 grams and more of a mixture and substance containing a  
12 detectable amount of N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl]  
13 propanamide (commonly known as fentanyl), a Schedule II Controlled  
14 Substance; 5 kilograms and more of cocaine, a Schedule II Controlled  
15 Substance; and 1,000 kilograms and more of marijuana, a Schedule I  
16 Controlled Substance; all in violation of Title 21, United States Code,  
17 Sections 952, 960 and 963.

18 Count 7

19 (Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering)

20 [18 U.S.C. § 1956(h)]

21 10. Beginning on a date unknown to the grand jury and continuing  
22 up to the date of the Indictment, within the Southern District of  
23 California, and elsewhere, defendant RENE ARZATE GARCIA, aka "La Rana,"  
24 aka "General," aka "Dad," aka "Apa," and others known and unknown to  
25 the grand jury, knowingly and intentionally conspired to transport,  
26 transmit, and transfer a monetary instrument and funds involving the  
27 proceeds of specified unlawful activity, that is, the importation and  
28 distribution of controlled substances, in violation of Title 21, United

1 States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), 846, 952, 959, 960, and 963, from a  
2 place in the United States to and through a place outside the United  
3 States, knowing that the monetary instrument and funds involved in the  
4 transportation, transmission and transfer represented the proceeds of  
5 some form of unlawful activity, and knowing that such transmission and  
6 transfer was designed in whole and in part to conceal and disguise the  
7 nature, the location, the source, the ownership, and the control of the  
8 proceeds of specified unlawful activity, in violation of Title 18, United  
9 States Code, Section 1956(a)(2)(B)(i).

10 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h).

11 **FORFEITURE ALLEGATIONS**

12 1. The allegations contained in Counts 1 and 2 and 4 through 6  
13 of this Indictment are realleged and by reference fully incorporated  
14 herein for the purpose of alleging forfeiture to the United States of  
15 America pursuant to the provisions of Title 21, United States Code,  
16 Section 853.

17 2. Upon conviction of one and more of the felony offenses alleged  
18 in Counts 1 and 2 and 4 through 6 of this Indictment, said violations  
19 being punishable by imprisonment for more than one year and pursuant to  
20 Title 21, United States Code, Sections 853(a)(1) and 853(a)(2),  
21 defendant RENE ARZATE GARCIA, aka "La Rana," aka "General," aka "Dad,"  
22 aka "Apa," shall forfeit to the United States all rights, title and  
23 interest in any and all property constituting, and derived from, any  
24 proceeds the defendant obtained, directly and indirectly, as the result  
25 of the offenses, and any and all property used and intended to be used  
26 in any manner and part to commit and to facilitate the commission of  
27 the violations alleged in Counts 1 and 2 and 4 through 6 of this  
28 Indictment.

1           3. Upon conviction of the offense alleged in Count 3 of this  
2 Indictment, and pursuant to Title 18, United States Code,  
3 Sections 981(a)(1)(C) and (G), and Title 28, United States Code,  
4 Section 2461(c), defendant RENE ARZATE GARCIA, aka "La Rana," aka  
5 "General," aka "Dad," aka "Apa," shall forfeit to the United States all  
6 rights, title and interest in any and all property, real and personal,  
7 constituting, and derived from, any proceeds traceable to the violation  
8 alleged in Count 3, and all assets, foreign and domestic affording any  
9 person a source of influence over such entity and organization, and all  
10 assets acquired and maintained by any person with the intent and for  
11 the purpose of supporting, planning, conducting, and concealing any  
12 federal crime of terrorism against the United States.

13           4. Upon conviction of the offense alleged in Count 7 of this  
14 Indictment, and pursuant to Title 18, United States Code,  
15 Section 982(a)(1), defendant RENE ARZATE GARCIA, aka "La Rana," aka  
16 "General," aka "Dad," aka "Apa," shall forfeit to the United States all  
17 property involved in the offense and all property traceable to such  
18 property.

19           5. If any of the above-described forfeitable property, as a  
20 result of any act or omission of the defendant:

- 21           a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- 22           b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a  
23           third party;
- 24           c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;
- 25           d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
- 26           e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be  
27           subdivided without difficulty;

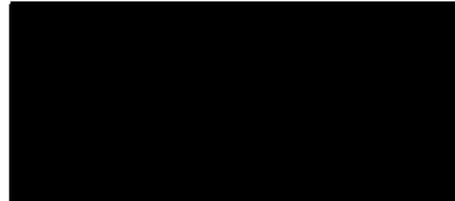
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1 it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21,  
2 United States Code, Section 853(p), Title 18, United States Code,  
3 Section 982(b), and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), to  
4 seek forfeiture of any other property of the defendants up to the value  
5 of the property listed above as being subject to forfeiture.

6 All in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 853, Title 18,  
7 United States Code, Sections 981(a)(1)(C) and (G), and 982, and Title 28,  
8 United States Code, Section 2461(c).

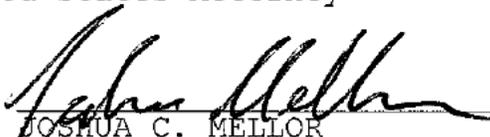
9 DATED: October 9, 2025.

10 A TRUE BILL:



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13 ADAM GORDON  
United States Attorney

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15 By:

  
16 JOSHUA C. MELLOR  
Assistant U.S. Attorney  
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