



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF KERN

CIVIC CENTER JUSTICE BUILDING
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301
(661) 868-2340, FAX: (661) 868-2700

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

KENNETH M. RUSSELL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

April 29, 2026
MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:
DDA Wooyoung Kim
(661) 868-2340

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Approved by CJZ
Press Release #26-36

Jury Finds Two Men Guilty in Case Involving Drug Transportation for Sales

People v. Ismael Gonzalez Jr. and David Mendoza: Kern County Superior Court Case 26LFA(B)0013

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant felony conviction today. On April 27, 2026, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Wooyoung Kim, a Kern County jury found Defendants Ismael Gonzalez Jr. and David Mendoza each guilty of one count of possession for sale of a controlled substance, one count of transportation for sale of a controlled substance, and one count of conspiracy to commit a crime. The jury further found true an allegation that the substance possessed by the defendants contained methamphetamine in excess of twenty (20) kilograms of weight.

On January 5, 2026, at approximately 4:00 p.m., deputies from the Kern County Sheriff's Office performed a traffic stop on the Defendants' vehicle traveling on southbound Interstate-5 near Lebec after observing several vehicle code infractions including illegal window tint, an illegal lane change, and an invalid license plate. Deputies contacted the driver, David Mendoza, and the passenger, Ismael Gonzalez Jr., before conducting a search of the vehicle which yielded approximately 50 pounds of methamphetamine.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Illegal substances are often catalysts for severe violence and devastation within our communities. Holding accountable those who distribute and transport them, especially in such large quantities, is a critical step toward reducing that damage. The scale of drugs involved in this case is significant and under the law, warrants substantial penalties."

Sentencing is set for May 28, 2026, before the Honorable Kenneth Twisselman II in Department 9 of the Kern County Superior Court. Both Defendants are both facing up to 19 years in prison.

Ismael Gonzalez Jr.:



David Mendoza:

