

JAMES M. BORING
District Attorney
First Judicial District
(Cimarron, Texas, Beaver, & Harper Counties)
(580) 338-3388

PRESS RELEASE

September 8, 2016

TO: All Local Media

RE: Approximately 2.5 pounds of heroin seized by DATF Agents in Texas County.

For Immediate Release

At 8:40 a.m. on September 6, 2016, agents of the District Attorney's Drug and Major Crime Task Force (DATF) made an interdiction stop of a vehicle near Goodwell, Oklahoma. The driver and single occupant of the vehicle was identified as Maria Letisia Duarte-Raya of Phoenix, Arizona. She told an agent of the DATF that she was delivering the vehicle to a friend in Kansas City and was flying back home later that day. After further inquiry about her travel plans, the agents became suspicious that Ms. Duarte-Raya was transporting controlled dangerous substances. She indicated she had been stopped and that the vehicle had been searched in Arizona the day before, but the DATF agents felt further investigation was merited. The agents obtained consent from Ms. Duarte-Raya to search the vehicle.

When the agents began the search an agent noticed that it appeared that the front bumper of the Honda vehicle had been previously removed. He also observed what appeared to be a small amount of foam protruding out of the metal bumper frame work. When the DATF agents removed the bumper they found four small packages that had been wrapped numerous times in cellophane and black tape.

Further investigation revealed that the packages weighing a total 2.9 pounds contained and estimated 2.5 pounds of heroin. The estimated street value of the heroin was placed at somewhere between \$400,000 and \$500,000 by the District Attorney, Mike Boring. The use of heroin is already at epidemic proportions in many areas of the United States, and resulting in ever increasing deaths from overdoses. Heroin and meth are directly related to and have resulted in many violent crimes occurring across our country. The almost free flow of these dangerous drugs across the border from Mexico imposes an ever increasing burden on society in dealing with a host of serious problems associated with drug addiction and drug trafficking.

Ms. Duarte-Raya was placed under arrest for aggravated trafficking of heroin and she was booked into the Texas County Detention Center pending the filing of formal charges in the District Court of Texas County. Her first court appearance is expected next week.

-99-