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**INFORMATION ISSUED BY U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA ON AUG. 10: INDICTMENTS
TARGET ARM OF PASADENA STREET GANG ALLEGEDLY SELLING
CRACK COCAINE IN ANTELOPE VALLEY**

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 10 -- The U.S. Department of Justice's U.S. Attorney's office for Central District of California issued the following press release:

A task force of federal and local law enforcement officers this morning arrested 34 members and associates of a Pasadena-based street gang, 11 of whom are charged in federal indictments with trafficking crack cocaine in the Antelope Valley.

The 11 federal arrests are the result of two indictments returned last Wednesday by a federal grand jury in Los Angeles. The indictments name a total of 23 defendants linked to the Pasadena Denver Lane Bloods (PDL), which has branched out into the Antelope Valley in recent years. In addition to the 11 federal defendants arrested this morning, five of the federal defendants were previously taken into custody and 23 people were arrested on various state offenses and parole violations. Authorities continue to search for six defendants named in the federal indictments. The final defendant was not arrested because she is in the hospital.

The investigation began last year after a PDL member shot and wounded Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Giovanni Lampigano during a July 12, 2009 incident in Palmdale. The investigation was conducted by officers with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department-Operation Safe Streets Bureau and law enforcement personnel associated with the **High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)** Task Force, which is a program operated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and is designed to enhance and coordinate efforts among local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. As a result of the investigation, law enforcement seized approximately two pounds of crack cocaine and 114 grams of powder cocaine.

"Today's arrests are an example of what can be achieved through the **HIDTA** task force program and DEA's Mobile Enforcement Team, by combining federal, state and local resources to have the greatest impact within our communities - in this case, by taking violent PDL gang members, who were supporting their gang activities through the sale of crack cocaine, off the streets of the Antelope Valley," said Timothy J. Landrum, DEA Special Agent in Charge.

Claude Arnold, Special Agent in Charge for ICE Homeland Security Investigations in Los Angeles, stated: "This enforcement action has dealt a serious blow to one of the most dangerous and aggressive criminal street gangs operating in the Antelope Valley. As a result of our collective efforts, we've taken several leaders of this organization off of the street and shutdown a lucrative and potentially lethal drug trafficking scheme. In conjunction with our ongoing anti-gang initiative Operation Community Shield, ICE will continue to work closely with its federal and local law enforcement partners to attack and dismantle the street gangs that are spreading violence and crime in our communities."

