

# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**JOHN F. WOOD**

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## JACKSON COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE

DECEMBER 13, 2007  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### PROJECT CEASEFIRE

#### **RAYTOWN MAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING, ILLEGAL FIREARMS**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – John F. Wood, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Raytown, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for drug trafficking and illegally possessing two firearms. Today's sentencing is the result of a successful investigation under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

**Roberto V. Soto**, 44, of Raytown, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Dean Whipple this morning to 15 years and one month in federal prison without parole.

On July 12, 2007, Soto pleaded guilty to being in possession with the intent to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine and to possessing firearms in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime. Soto admitted that he was in possession of a Taurus .357-caliber revolver and a Rexio .38-caliber revolver. Law enforcement officers recovered the firearms – as well as methamphetamine, cocaine and marijuana – while executing a search warrant at Soto's residence on Sept. 1, 2006.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rudolph R. Rhodes, IV. It was investigated by the Jackson County Drug Task Force and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

#### Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.