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NEWS RELEASE

June 12, 2007

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END OF THE ROAD FOR ESCALADE ESCAPADE ESCAPIST

One of two men charged in a 26-count racketeering indictment that alleged the theft of high-end vehicles, often Cadillac Escalades, has pleaded guilty today in connection with that case and also pleaded guilty to escaping from custody.

Carlos Romero (dob: 08-26-75) pleaded guilty to violating the Colorado Crime Control Act (F2) and to escape (F3). He was sentenced to 30 years in prison for the COCCA violation and 24 years in prison for the escape charge, but the sentences will be served concurrently for a total of 30 years. These sentences will be served *consecutive* to a sentence he was already serving at the time of his escape from Denver Health Medical Center.

Romero and an accomplice, **Ronnie Garcia** (dob: 11-11-79), targeted luxury vehicles to steal in 2005. They were able to get the Vehicle Identification Numbers (VIN) from the cars and used the VINs to obtain computerized key codes from various car dealerships. The key codes were then given to a locksmith to make keys for the vehicles.

Garcia pleaded guilty yesterday to first-degree motor vehicle theft (F3) and was sentenced to 9 years in Community Corrections.

Romero's mother, grandmother and uncle are all facing felony charges of aiding Romero in his November 30, 2006 escape.