



Riverside County District Attorney
NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
March 17, 2010

**MASSIVE OPERATION ACROSS WESTERN U.S. TARGETS
THE VAGOS OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE GANG**

RIVERSIDE – Today, Riverside County law enforcement agencies led a large-scale, multi-state suppression operation targeting the largest outlaw motorcycle gang in California – the Vagos.

“The Vagos outlaw motorcycle gang has a well-established criminal structure that is responsible for violent crimes as well as sophisticated identity theft cases against innocent citizens in our communities,” said Riverside County District Attorney Rod Pacheco. “Operation Everywhere sends a powerful message to the Vagos that we know where they are. Riverside County law enforcement and our partner agencies are not going to tolerate gangs of any type.”

Operation Everywhere – coordinated by the Riverside County Gang Task Force -- involves more than 60 law enforcement agencies extending from across Riverside County to Shasta County near the Oregon border, as well as in the states of Arizona, Nevada and Utah.

Today, 400 law enforcement officers targeted 73 locations in Riverside County, making 30 arrests as of 1:30 p.m., seized several weapons and quantities of illegal drugs. A methamphetamine lab was found at a location targeted in Lake Elsinore. Arrests have also been made at locations outside Riverside County.

Vagos members participate in violent crimes such as assaults -- often targeting non-gang members -- and are known to be involved in drug and weapons trafficking as well as identity theft.

With a conservative estimate of 600 members - about half of whom are in California - Vagos is the largest outlaw motorcycle gang in the state. An estimated 200 members are in Riverside County, making it the largest and most active outlaw motorcycle gang in this county.

The Vagos evolved from a small motorcycle club in the late 1960s called the Psychos, who soon began calling themselves Los Vagos and establishing in the Temescal Canyon area between Lake Elsinore and Corona. By the early 1970s they concentrated mostly in San Bernardino County and dropped the ‘Los’ from their name, preferring just “Vagos.”

They have since grown throughout California and made their way into Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Hawaii and south to Mexico. Recently, a former Riverside County-based Vagos member moved to the East Coast and is establishing Vagos there.

Today’s operation is part of law enforcement’s ongoing effort to combat gang activity of all kind.

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