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200 Pounds of Methamphetamine and Heroin Seized in Southern California

By Dennis Romero

What does 119 pounds of meth look like? Oh, about yay-high, lives in a trailer park, missing some teeth. But seriously, that's a lot of country crack, and it was seized right here in Southern California.

Attorney General Jerry Brown, who's running for governor, made the announcement Thursday, saying state agents also took 85 pounds of heroin, two pounds of cocaine and more than \$33,000 in bills in two separate raids in Los Angeles and the Inland Empire Wednesday night.

Marco Alejo, 44, of Moreno Valley, Jorge Gonzalez, 39, of Torrance, and Sarah Magdalena Altamirano, 40, of Torrance were arrested, according to a statement from Brown's office.

"We've been fighting to keep dangerous, addictive drugs like methamphetamine and heroin off our streets," Brown stated. "Last night's drug busts send another unequivocal message that California will do everything it can to arrest and lock up these callous purveyors of death and addiction."

Authorities said they found 81 pounds of methamphetamine hidden in a bedroom closet during a warrant search at 1507 South Palmetto Street in Ontario Wednesday night. Alejo was arrested after leaving the home.

Closer to L.A., husband-and-wife suspects, Gonzalez and Altamirano, were being watched and tracked when they left their home at 1018 West 223rd St. in Torrance. State agents had them pulled over. Authorities claim that a search of the vehicle the couple was in netted a suitcase containing 39 one-pound packages of "brown powder" heroin.

At the pair's home investigators said they found another 46 pounds of black tar heroin, 38 pounds of "ice" meth, and the coke and cash. Gonzalez and Altamirano were arrested and were being held in lieu of \$1 million bail.