



RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
**NEWS RELEASE**  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**DRUG TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATION LEADS TO SEIZURE OF 343 POUNDS OF  
PACKAGED COCAINE VALUED AT AN ESTIMATED \$5 MILLION**

**RIVERSIDE** – An on-going investigation conducted by the Riverside County District Attorney’s new Organized Crime Unit led to the seizure earlier this week of 343 pounds of packaged cocaine with an estimated wholesale value of \$5 million.

Just after 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2015, a big-rig was pulled over by law enforcement officers in the area of Interstate 15 and Sixth Street in Norco. After receiving permission to search the trailer, a police canine alerted to the interior of the truck and authorities located 156 brick-size packages of cocaine hidden behind a false compartment wall. Each cocaine brick is the equivalent of 1 kilo, the total seizure amount being just more than 343 pounds. The driver of the tractor-trailer rig, Samer Karanouh, DOB: 1-1-69, of Canada, was arrested on suspicion of transportation of narcotics for sales and booked at the Larry Smith Correctional Facility.

The Riverside County District Attorney’s Office is reviewing the case for possible criminal filing.

This substantial drug seizure, believed to possibly be the largest single seizure of cocaine in Riverside County in at least 15 years, stems from a joint agency investigation into Mexican drug cartels believed to be trafficking drugs into the United States and specifically into Riverside County.

These continuing investigations are being done by the DA’s Organized Crime Unit in collaboration with its local and federal law enforcement partners.

No further details about this continuing investigation will be released at this time.

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