



U. S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Prisons
United States Penitentiary
Tucson, Arizona

For Immediate Release
January 10, 2026

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Death at USP Tucson

TUCSON, AZ: On Friday, January 9, 2026, at approximately 11:50 a.m., Ernesto Valles-Sanchez was found unresponsive at the United States Penitentiary (USP) Tucson in Tucson, Arizona.

Responding employees initiated life-saving measures. Emergency medical services (EMS) were requested while life-saving efforts continued. Mr. Valles-Sanchez was transported by EMS to a local hospital and subsequently pronounced deceased by hospital personnel.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation was notified.

No employees or other incarcerated individuals were injured, and at no time was the public in danger.

Mr. Valles-Sanchez was a 35-year-old male who was sentenced in the District of New Mexico to a 106-month sentence for Conspiracy, Possession with Intent to Distribute Cocaine, and Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime. He had been in custody at USP Tucson since December 30, 2025.

USP Tucson is a high security facility.

Additional information about the Federal Bureau of Prisons can be found at www.bop.gov.

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