



JOSÉ R. RODRÍGUEZ
EL PASO COUNTY ATTORNEY
500 EAST SAN ANTONIO
ROOM 503, COUNTY COURTHOUSE
EL PASO, TEXAS 79901

NO. 200752

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday October 10, 2007

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT: Elhiu Dominguez
Public Affairs Officer
Phone: (915) 546-2016
FAX: (915) 546-2133
Elhiu.dominguez@ca.epcounty.com

**CANDLELIGHT VIGIL TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT
MENTAL ILLNESS IN EL PASO**

On Thursday October 11, 2007, dozens of local residents will light up the night to raise awareness about mental illness in our community.

According to recent statistics issued by the National Alliance on Mental Illness, it is estimated that, in any given year, one in four adults have a diagnosable mental disorder, and that mental problems constitute the leading cause of disability in the U. S. for individuals ages 15 – 44..

To raise awareness about the needs of the mentally ill in our community, El Paso County Attorney José R. Rodríguez will join members of the El Paso chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), and local residents, in the annual Mental Illness Awareness Candlelight Vigil. The event is scheduled for tomorrow October 11, 2007 at 7 p.m. outside the El Paso Psychiatric Center, 4615 Alameda Ave.

The public is encouraged to attend.

WHO: El Paso County Attorney José R. Rodríguez

WHAT: NAMI's Bipolar Disorder Awareness Candlelight Vigil

WHEN: Thursday, October 11, 2007, at 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: El Paso Psychiatric Center

4615 Alameda Ave.

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For more information about the vigil, please call Victor Ortíz, President of El Paso NAMI at 534-5478.

About the National Mental Illness Awareness Week: Established in 1990 by Congress, the first week of October is designated as "Mental Illness Awareness Week" (MIAW) in recognition of NAMI's efforts to raise mental illness awareness. "Bipolar Disorder Awareness Day" (BDAD) is held each year on the Thursday of MIAW to encourage further understanding and promote early intervention and treatment for this mental illness. MIAW and BDAD are NAMI's premiere public awareness and public education campaigns that link the organization nationally to the organization's over 1100 local affiliates across the country.