



## U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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### NEWS RELEASE

United States Attorney Michael L. Levy announced the filing of an indictment<sup>1</sup> against brothers Jaime Verdin-Perez, Miguel Verdin-Perez, and Agustin Verdin, and their cousin, Edgar Verdin-Diaz, charging them with conspiracy to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine, possession with intent to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine, possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, and aiding and abetting.

This case arises from a DEA investigation of a Norristown based cocaine trafficking conspiracy that resulted in the seizure of forty-four kilograms of cocaine and the arrest of the four defendants on July 1, 2009. According to the indictment, the defendants received the shipment of cocaine on June 30, 2009 in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, and stored the cocaine overnight at the home of one of the defendants in Norristown, Pennsylvania. DEA agents arrested three of the defendants in Philadelphia the next day when they attempted to sell one kilogram of cocaine to a buyer for \$31,000. DEA agents discovered the kilogram of cocaine intended for the buyer in one of the defendants' cars and found an additional nine kilograms of cocaine in a hidden compartment of the car, which had been purchased that morning for the purpose of transporting the cocaine. DEA agents later searched the Norristown home where the cocaine was stored and recovered an additional thirty-four kilograms of cocaine plus one .380 caliber handgun loaded with six live rounds of ammunition, an unspecified amount of cash, and packaging materials. The remaining defendant was found at the home and arrested at that time. The total value of the cocaine seized is approximately one and a half million dollars (\$1,500,000).

### INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

| NAME                | ADDRESS        | YEAR OF BIRTH |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Jaime Verdin-Perez  | Norristown, PA | 1985          |
| Miguel Verdin-Perez | Norristown, PA | 1988          |
| Agustin Verdin      | Norristown, PA | 1982          |
| Edgar Verdin-Diaz   | Norristown, PA | 1988          |

If convicted, the defendants face a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in prison, and a fine of up to \$8.25 million. Forfeiture of all

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<sup>1</sup>An indictment is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

proceeds from the offense, all property involved in, and all facilitating property, also may be ordered.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration with assistance from the Montgomery County Narcotics Enforcement Team, the Norristown Police Department, the Cheltenham Police Department, and the Abington Police Department. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David J. Caputo.

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