



Department of Justice

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COLOMBIAN NATIONAL SENTENCED ON NARCOTICS CONSPIRACY CHARGES AS PART OF LARGE JAMAICAN DRUG RING

Tampa, Florida - U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces that U.S. District Judge Susan C. Bucklew today sentenced Luis Miguel Avila Arias (54, a Colombian national) to 135 months in federal prison and five years of supervised release. Avila-Arias was extradited from Colombia to face narcotics conspiracy charges, along with five other Jamaican nationals, who were previously sentenced. Avila-Arias pled guilty to conspiring to possess with intent to distribute more than 5 kilograms of cocaine while aboard a vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. In March 2009, Judge Susan C. Bucklew sentenced the other five defendants, who also pled guilty, to the following terms of imprisonment: Robroy Williams, a/k/a Spy -- 360 months in prison; Herbert Henry, a/k/a Scary --168 months in prison; Norris Nembhard, a/k/a Dido --156 months in prison; Vivian Dalley, a/k/a Jungo --135 months in prison; and Glenford Williams, a/k/a Toe --120 months in prison.

According to court documents, including plea agreements with Avila-Arias and his co-conspirators, Jamaica serves as a transshipment point for cocaine from Colombia to the United States. Robroy Williams and Nembhard received loads of cocaine transported via go-fast vessels from Colombia ranging from 600-1200 kilograms of cocaine. The

transportation for some of these loads was arranged by Avila-Arias for delivery to Robroy Williams. The loads of cocaine were received by Williams and others, via go-fast vessel at various beach locations in Jamaica, and stored in rural stash house locations for later distribution in Jamaica, and eventually in the United States.

The case was investigated by and part of the Operation Panama Express Task Force, which is a multi-agency task force targeting large scale drug trafficking organizations involved in smuggling shipments of narcotics into the United States, and is comprised of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The Government of Jamaica and Jamaican law enforcement agencies also assisted in the prosecution of this case. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kelley C. Howard-Allen.