



Department of Justice

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April 9, 2009			PHONE: (813) 274-6136	
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TWO ORLANDO DRUG DEALERS FOUND GUILTY IN COCAINE CONSPIRACY

Orlando, Florida - U.S. Attorney A. Brian Albritton announced today that a federal jury today found Jonathan Melendez (age 29, of Orlando) and Ramon Goitia-Mora (age 37, of Orlando) guilty of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and distribute five or more kilograms of cocaine. The maximum penalty each man faces is life in federal prison. The sentencing hearing is scheduled for June 26, 2009. Melendez and Goitia-Mora had been indicted on October 22, 2008.

According to testimony and evidence presented at trial, federal and local investigators learned that in August 2006 and continuing through June 2007, a drug trafficking organization was mailing cocaine almost every week from Puerto Rico to Orlando in United States Postal Service parcels, with each parcel containing from one to three kilograms of cocaine hydrochloride. The number of parcels mailed as part of this conspiracy varied from week to week, but as many as fifteen parcels were mailed during some weeks.

The investigation identified Jonathan Melendez (Melendez) as a leader of the cocaine distribution organization. Melendez received kilograms of cocaine that were mailed from Puerto Rico in U.S. mail parcels to various addressees in the Orlando area, then transported to him by his associates. Ramon Goitia-Mora was the right-hand man for Melendez, for whom he picked up cocaine and transported money.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Bruce S. Ambrose.