



Department of Justice

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Tampa Orlando
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 1, 2009
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr>

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SEVEN SENTENCED IN COCAINE CONSPIRACY

Orlando, Florida - U.S. District Judge John Antoon II last week sentenced seven men to federal prison, for terms ranging from 10 years to 25 years, for conspiring to distribute cocaine in Orlando. The men had been charged on October 22, 2008, in an indictment related to the successful 2007 prosecution of 31 defendants for the same conspiracy. The seven were sentenced as follows:

| | Age | Residence | Federal Prison Term |
|----------------------------|-----|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Alberto Torres-Garrastequi | 39 | Bayamon, Puerto Rico | 10 Years |
| Jose Rosario-Oquendo | 36 | Bayamon, Puerto Rico | 25 Years |
| Luis Cruz | 50 | Rio Piedra, Puerto Rico | 10 Years |
| Jonathan Melendez | 29 | Rio Piedra, Puerto Rico | 20 Years |
| Ramon Gotia-Mora | 37 | St. Cloud, Florida | 20 Years |
| Edgardo Rivera-Ocana | 27 | Kissimmee, Florida | 10 Years |
| Jose Rodriguez | 27 | Orlando, Florida | 10 Years |

Torres-Garrastequi, Rosario-Oquendo, Luis Cruz, Rivera-Ocana, and Rodriguez had pleaded guilty. Melendez and Gotia-Mora had been found guilty following a federal jury trial on April 9, 2009.

According to court documents, the cocaine conspiracy for which the men were

sentenced began in November 2005 and continued through June 2007. The conspirators acted in Orange, Osceola, Sarasota, and Polk Counties, Florida, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and elsewhere. Conspirators mailed parcels of cocaine from Puerto Rico through the U.S. mail system to numerous Orlando area addresses. Authorities estimate that the group was mailing up to fifty kilograms of cocaine each week, and distributing it in the Orlando area.

In addition to these seven, three more defendants charged in the October 22, 2008 indictment have pleaded guilty and await sentencing.

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