



Department of Justice

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ORLANDO AREA HEROIN DEALER SENTENCED TO MORE THAN FIFTEEN YEARS IN PRISON FOR DRUG AND FIREARMS CHARGES

Orlando, Florida - U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces that U.S. District Judge Mary S. Scriven today sentenced Jesus Miranda (29, Casselberry) to 183 months in federal prison for two counts of possession of heroin with the intent to distribute, possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and possession of a machine gun. Miranda was found guilty of the charges on October 28, 2009, after a jury trial.

According to the evidence presented at trial, Miranda unwittingly met with undercover agents working for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement ("FDLE") and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF") in May 2009. Over a two-week span, Miranda repeatedly told agents that he needed to acquire machine guns and other firearms, in exchange for heroin. The case culminated on May 14, 2009, when Miranda met with the undercover agents and traded 50 grams of heroin for three machine guns and four semi-automatic pistols. Miranda was immediately arrested after the transaction. He also admitted to distributing more than 10 kilograms of heroin in the Orlando area, in the months before his arrest. As a convicted felon, Miranda cannot possess firearms under federal law.

This case was investigated by ATF, FDLE and the Seminole County Sheriff's Office City/County Investigative Bureau ("CCIB"). It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr.

This is another case prosecuted as a part of the Department of Justice's "Project Safe Neighborhoods" program - a nationwide gun-violence reduction strategy led by ATF. United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill, along with Virginia O'Brien, Special Agent-in-Charge, ATF, is coordinating the Project Safe Neighborhoods effort here in the Middle District of Florida, in cooperation with federal, state, and local law enforcement officials.