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FOUR ATLANTA MEN SENTENCED IN CONSPIRACY TO DELIVER MULTIPLE KILOGRAMS OF METHAMPHETAMINE TO THE ORLANDO AREA

Orlando, Florida - U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announced that U.S. District Judge John Antoon II yesterday sentenced Emelio Rueda-Hernandez (age 38) and Jose Perez (age 36) on charges of conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine and possession of 500 grams or more of methamphetamine with intent to distribute. Rueda-Hernandez was sentenced to 11 years and 3 months in federal prison, and Perez was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison. Additionally, the Court sentenced Jose Roano-Dominguez (age 47), on charges of conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine to 2 years and 9 months in federal prison. Today, Douglas Ronnye Rodriguez (age 42) was sentenced to 2 years and 3 months in federal prison for similar charges.

According to court documents and evidence presented at trial, Jose Perez met several times in July 2010 with a confidential informant believed to be a potential buyer for multiple kilograms of "crystal" methamphetamine. Perez arranged for a shipment of approximately two kilograms of methamphetamine to be sold to the informant in exchange for \$90,000. The transaction was set to occur on August 3, 2010. On August 2, 2010, Perez and Rueda-Hernandez traveled from Atlanta, Georgia to Altamonte Springs, Florida,

and met with the informant in order to finalize the transaction. According to evidence presented at trial, Rueda-Hernandez participated in the conspiracy as a representative of the drug source, who was referred to as "Chafa." After Rueda-Hernandez met with the informant, Rueda-Hernandez contacted "Chafa," who then arranged for Roano-Dominguez and Rodriguez to drive from Atlanta to Altamonte Springs with over two kilograms of methamphetamine. At the time the drug deal was to occur, Perez, Roano-Dominguez and Rodriguez took approximately half of the methamphetamine shipment to the Altamonte Mall to meet with the informant. Rueda-Hernandez remained at the apartment at which time they were staying and hid the other half of the methamphetamine shipment in the apartment. All four men were apprehended shortly after the drugs changed hands.

This case was investigated by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Vincent S. Chiu and Roger B. Handberg, III.