



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
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News Release

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4 plead guilty to possessing ecstasy

Three defendants pleaded guilty today in federal court for possessing the semisynthetic psychedelic drug MDMA, commonly known as ecstasy.

On Nov. 3 in St. Paul, Vong Voraveth, 28, Minnetonka, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute MDMA/ecstasy. Three other defendants each pleaded guilty to one count of aiding and abetting the distribution of MDMA/ecstasy. They are: Athit Syhaphom, 24, Richfield; and Minh Tran, 36, Eagan. All three pleas were entered before United States District Court Judge Donovan Frank. The three defendants were indicted on Nov. 8, 2007.

A fourth defendant, Soukseum Inthickack, 30, Brooklyn Park, pleaded guilty to one count of possession with intent to distribute MDMA/ecstasy on Oct. 15.

According to their respective plea agreements, from Jan. 1, 2007, through Nov. 8, 2007, Voraveth conspired with others to distribute approximately 50,000 tablets (12,500 grams) of ecstasy. Syhaphom admitted that on Oct. 11, 2007, she aided and abetted Voraveth by possessing with intent to distribute approximately 5,000 tablets (1,250 grams) of ecstasy.

Both Inthickack and Tran admitted that on Sept. 27, 2007, they aided and abetted Voraveth by possessing with intent to distribute approximately 5,000 tablets of ecstasy.

Each of the four defendants faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. Judge Frank will determine their sentences at a future date. This case is the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christian S. Wilton.