



**United States Department of Justice  
United States Attorney's Office  
District of Minnesota**

**B. Todd Jones,  
United States Attorney**

**Jeanne F. Cooney  
Director of Community Relations  
(612) 664-5611  
email: [jeanne.cooney@usdoj.gov](mailto:jeanne.cooney@usdoj.gov)**

## **News Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Tuesday, August 10, 2010  
[WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/MN](http://WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/MN)

### **Richfield man, California man indicted for conspiring to distribute five kilograms of cocaine**

A Richfield, Minnesota, man and a man from Delano, California, have been indicted in federal court in the District of Minnesota for allegedly conspiring to distribute five or more kilograms of cocaine in Bloomington, Minnesota, last month. The indictment, which was filed earlier today, charges Noe Prieto, age 22, of Richfield, and Felipe Morfin, age 23, of Delano, California, with one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine and one count of possession with intent to distribute cocaine.

The indictment alleges that on July 9, 2010, the two defendants conspired to possess and distribute five or more kilograms of cocaine. According to a law enforcement affidavit filed in the case, police responded to a "suspicious activity" call from the Travelodge Motel in Bloomington on July 9. They approached the motel room in question and knocked on the door. Prieto allegedly opened the door, asked the officers to give him "a minute," and then closed the door. When the officers knocked again, no one responded. After another 15 minutes or so, the officers saw someone inside the room open a curtain and peer out at them. A few minutes later Morfin allegedly opened the door and allowed the officers to enter the room, and both Prieto and Morfin purportedly agreed to speak with them.

Based on that conversation, police received consent to search the hotel room. During that search, they found packaging material, duct tape, rubber gloves, a vacuum sealer, and several cell phones. The packaging material had water inside of it, as if its contents had been washed out recently. The bathroom floor and sink were also wet. From that evidence, officers concluded that the men had flushed cocaine down the sink and shower drains after authorities initially knocked on the door. Upon testing, police also reportedly found cocaine on the packaging material as well as on Prieto's shirt.

If convicted, the two men face a potential maximum penalty of life in prison on each charge. All sentences will be determined by a federal district court judge.

This case is the result of an investigation by the Bloomington Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Thomas M. Hollenhorst.

–30–

An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by a defendant. A defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.