



Department of Justice

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District of North Dakota

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Moorhead Man Sentenced on Federal Drug Charge

FARGO - United States Attorney Drew Wrigley announced that on July 17, 2009, **Raul Garcia**, of Moorhead, Minnesota, was sentenced before United States District Court Judge Ralph R. Erickson on a charge of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and distribute a controlled substance.

Garcia, 29, pleaded guilty to the conspiracy charge on May 8, 2009. On January 15, 2009, **Garcia**, along with co-defendant Alfredo Portales, a/k/a Freddie Portales, sold ten quarter-gram packages of heroin and some marijuana to a cooperating individual in Fargo. Portales was stopped by the Moorhead police and found to be in possession of 41 quarter-gram packages of heroin and a pistol. Later that evening, **Garcia** was found in possession of heroin and marijuana during the execution of a Clay County, Minnesota search warrant.

Judge Erickson sentenced **Garcia** to two years and nine months in prison to be followed by three years of supervised release. **Garcia** was also ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund.

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Co-defendant Portales was sentenced on June 22, 2009, to 15 years in prison on the heroin conspiracy charge and a federal firearms charge.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Moorhead Police Department; and the Cass County Drug Task Force, which includes officers from the West Fargo Police Department, Cass County Sheriff's Department, North Dakota Parole and Probation, and North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation. Assistance was also provided by the Clay County Attorney's Office.

Assistant United States Attorney Scott Schneider prosecuted the case.

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