

NEWS

United States Department of Justice
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Brother of Major Camden Drug Dealer Sentenced to 168 Months in
Prison for Distribution of Kilogram Quantities of Cocaine

(More)

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CAMDEN – The brother of former Camden drug leader Raymond Morales was sentenced to 168 months in federal prison today for his role in Morales' Continuing Criminal Enterprise that distributed thousands of kilograms of cocaine in Camden, Acting U.S. Attorney Ralph J. Marra, Jr. announced.

U.S. District Judge Joseph E. Irenas also ordered Andres Morales, 36, of Camden, to serve five years of supervised release upon the completion of his prison sentence. The defendant has been in custody since his arrest on May 10, 2007.

On May 8, 2009, Morales pleaded guilty before Judge Irenas to Count One of an Indictment, which was returned on April 25, 2007, that charged him with conspiring with Raymond Morales and others to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute five or more kilograms of powder cocaine, and 50 grams or more of crack cocaine.

At his plea hearing, Morales admitted that in 2002 his half-brother, Raymond Morales, organized and led a major drug-trafficking organization in Camden. Morales admitted, that in 2002 and 2003, he assisted his brother's Continuing Criminal Enterprise ("CCE"), though which he was responsible for distribution of between 50 and 150 kilograms of cocaine.

Raymond Morales, 37, of Camden, pleaded guilty on July 27, 2005, to a nine-count Superseding Information that charged him with six counts of ordering a murder in the furtherance of a CCE; one count of witness tampering by ordering the attempted murder of a witness; one count of distribution and possession with intent to distribute over 500 grams of cocaine; and one count of being a principal administrator of a CCE that operated in Camden.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Irenas consulted the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence. The charge to which Morales pleaded guilty carried a mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years in prison.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Marra credited Special Agents of the DEA, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Gerard P. McAleer, in Newark, Investigators with the Camden County Prosecutor's Office Homicide Unit, under the direction of Camden County Prosecutor Warren W. Faulk, and ATF Philadelphia Division, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Mark Potter, along with member agencies of the Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA Task, with investigation of Morale's supply and distribution networks.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Howard Wiener and Diana V. Carrig of the U.S. Attorney's Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Michael E. Riley, Esq. Mount Holly