

# NEWS

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United States Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey  
401 Market Street, Fourth Floor  
Camden, New Jersey 08101

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***Paul J. Fishman, U.S. Attorney***

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***More Information?*** Contact the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

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## Egg Harbor Township Man Pleads Guilty to Heroin Distribution and Money Laundering Conspiracy

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(More)

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CAMDEN – An Egg Harbor Township man pleaded guilty today to federal charges for operating a heroin distribution organization that imported heroin from Columbia and distributed the drugs in New York City and Atlantic County and the laundering of drug proceeds, U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

Fabia Garcia, 71, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Jerome B. Simandle to one count each of conspiracy to distribution and possession with the intent to distribute more than one kilogram heroin and conspiracy to commit money laundering. Judge Simandle scheduled sentencing for May 7.

On June 24, 2009, Garcia was arrested by Special Agents with the FBI and IRS Criminal Investigation Division and made an initial appearance in federal court in Camden before U.S. Magistrate Ann Marie Donio, who ordered the defendant to be detained pending trial.

The Indictment, which was returned on June 23, 2009, describes a conspiracy in which Garcia and other unindicted co-conspirators profited from the smuggling of heroin from Columbia into the United States. The Indictment alleges that from January 2004 through December 2007, Garcia and seven unindicted co-conspirators imported heroin from Colombia into Florida. The heroin was then transported to Egg Harbor Township to be repackaged and then distributed in New Jersey, New York and elsewhere.

The investigation was a joint effort by the FBI and IRS Criminal Investigation, with assistance from DEA in Miami, ICE in New York and the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office.

At his plea hearing, Garcia admitted that the two Colombians smuggled heroin from Columbia into the United States. They would then drive the heroin to Garcia's house in New Jersey. Once in New Jersey, the Colombians unpacked the heroin from the motorcycle parts in Garcia's garage. The heroin was then packaged into a "shop vac" and Garcia would drive the Colombians to New York to deliver it and pick up money. Once back in New Jersey the money was placed in the motorcycle parts and sent via FedEx to Miami so that it could be sent to Colombia. Garcia admitted that the Colombians were also supplying his daughter. Garcia also admitted that the Colombians would leave drug money with him, which he placed in his safe deposit box in an attempt to hide or conceal it. When the Colombians would return he would then take the money out of the safe deposit box and give it to them.

During the plea hearing, Garcia agreed to forfeit \$111,470 in U.S. currency.

The charge of conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute heroin carries a maximum statutory penalty of life in prison and a fine of \$4 million. The charge of conspiracy to engage in money laundering carries a maximum statutory penalty of 20 years in prison and a fine of \$500,000.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Simandle will consult 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. Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Fishman credited Special Agents of the FBI's Atlantic City Resident Agency, under the direction of Acting Special Agent in Charge Kevin B. Cruise in Newark, and the IRS Criminal Investigation Division, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge William P. Offord, for investigation of the case.

Fishman also thanked Special Agents of the DEA's Miami Field Division, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Mark R. Trouville, ICE's Office of Investigation, New York Field Office, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Peter J. Smith, and the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Theodore F.L. Housel, with the investigation leading to the Indictment.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason M. Richardson of the U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense attorney: Michael Huff, Esq. Camden