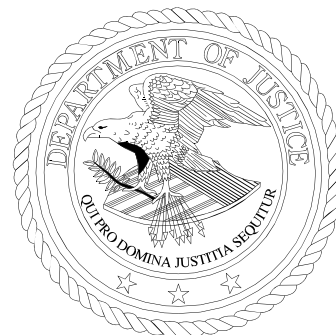


NEWS

United States Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey
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Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Aug. 8, 2007

A Leader of “Sex Money Murder” Gang In Trenton Pleads Guilty to Cocaine Distribution Charge

(More)

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TRENTON – A leader of the Bloods “Sex Money Murder” street gang in Trenton pleaded guilty today to distributing kilogram quantities of cocaine with a total wholesale value in excess of \$1 million, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

Omar Aikens, 28, of Trenton, entered his plea in U.S. District Court in Trenton before U.S. District Judge Mary L. Cooper, who scheduled sentencing for Nov. 30. Aikens has been held in federal detention since his arrest on Aug. 29, 2005, by Special Agents with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Investigators with the N.J. Division of Criminal Justice, Mercer County Prosecutor’s Office and Trenton Police Department.

The one-count Information to which Aikens pleaded guilty charges that from September 2003 until August 2005, Aikens conspired with others to distribute and possess with intent to distribute more than 5 kilograms of cocaine.

Aiken was initially arrested on a sealed federal criminal complaint, which was returned in August 2005, as a result of a long-term investigation by numerous federal, state, county and local law enforcement agencies.

At his plea hearing, Aikens admitted that during the time period covered in the Information, he and other co-conspirators distributed and possessed with the intent to distribute more than 15 kilograms of cocaine. Aikens admitted that while running his cocaine distribution network he managed five or more individuals, who assisted him with drug distribution activities.

Aikens admitted that he obtained multi-kilogram quantities of cocaine from a supplier in Houston, Texas. The cocaine was transported to the Trenton area via express mail shipments and the use of drug couriers to transport kilograms of cocaine on Amtrak trains. Aiken admitted that the cocaine was then resold to other drug dealers in Trenton area.

Additionally, Aikens admitted he sent thousands of dollars via express mail packages to his supplier in Houston as payment for the drugs. Aikens’ supplier, Hilliaurd Smith, of Sugarland, Texas, has pleaded guilty in federal court before Judge Cooper and is in custody awaiting his sentencing hearing.

The charge of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute more than 5 kilograms of cocaine carries a mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years in prison and a maximum penalty of life, and a fine of \$4 million.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Cooper 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.

Christie credited Special Agents of the DEA, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Gerard P. McAleer; Investigators with the N.J. Division of Criminal Justice, under the direction of Gregory Paw, Director; the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Joseph L. Bocchini, Jr.; the Trenton Police Department, under the direction of Joseph Santiago, for the investigation that lead to the guilty plea.

Christie also thanks members of Mercer County Sheriff's Department, Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, New Jersey National Guard, Amtrak Police and numerous local police departments for their assistance in the investigation..

The Government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Patrick C. Askin of the Criminal Division in Trenton.

– end –

Defense Attorney: Stephen J. Taylor, Esq. Princeton