

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Atlantic County Man Admits Trafficking in Methamphetamine and Firearms

(More)

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CAMDEN – An Atlantic County man pleaded guilty today to drug and gun trafficking charges, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

Oscar Campos-Diaz, 24, a.k.a. “Amigo,” of Egg Harbor Township, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Jerome B. Simandle to one count each of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of “ice” methamphetamine and 50 grams or more of crack cocaine, and conspiracy to distribute firearms without a license. Judge Simandle continued Campos-Diaz’s detention and scheduled sentencing for March 28.

Campos-Diaz, along with co-defendants Jesus Anguino-Cardenes, 33, a.k.a. “Chuee” of Pleasantville, Jose Ismael Valdez-Gastelum, 56, of Nogales, Ariz., and Angel Gonzalez-Amaro, 27, a.k.a. “Pablo,” a Mexican national who is illegally in the U.S., were arrested on criminal Complaints on Oct. 6, 2006.

At his plea hearing, Campos-Diaz admitted that, from June 2006 to October 2006, he agreed with Anguino-Cardenes, Gonzalez-Amaro and others to distribute methamphetamine and other illegal drugs.

Campos-Diaz admitted that on Oct. 4, 2006, he called an individual named Carlos, whom he later learned was a confidential informant working with law enforcement, and offered to sell him three pounds of crystal methamphetamine the next day. Campos-Diaz admitted he also arranged to meet with Carlos, later that same day, at the boardwalk in front of the Tropicana Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City to discuss the drug transaction which was to take place the next day.

Campos-Diaz admitted that he and Anguino-Cardenes then met with Carlos at the boardwalk and agreed to sell three pounds and 11 ounces of crystal methamphetamine for \$84,000. The next day, Oct. 5, Campos-Diaz and Anguino-Cardenes brought approximately 1.6 kilograms of methamphetamine to a Taco Bell in Pleasantville to sell to Carlos. Both defendants were arrested shortly after their arrival for the scheduled drug transaction.

In regards to the firearms trafficking conspiracy, Campos-Diaz admitted at his plea hearing that from June 2006 to October 2006 he agreed with Gonzalez-Amaro and Anguino-Cardenes to purchase firearms in Georgia and illegally sell them in New Jersey for a profit. In August 2006, Gonzalez-Amaro and Campos-Diaz traveled to Georgia and purchased a Masterpiece Arms TM .45 ACP semi-automatic firearm, a Masterpiece Arms TM .9 mm semi-automatic firearm and two magazines. Campos-Diaz admitted that on Aug. 10, 2006, Anguino-Cardenes sold those 2 guns to Carlos. On Aug. 24, Gonzalez-Amaro and Campos-Diaz sold two other firearms, a Hi-Point Firearms .45 caliber

semiautomatic pistol and a 9mm caliber semiautomatic pistol, to Carlos for \$1,500, Campos-Diaz admitted.

Count One, which charges conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of “ice” methamphetamine, and 50 grams or more of crack cocaine, carries a statutory mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison, a maximum penalty of life, and a fine of \$4 million. Count Two, which charges conspiracy to distribute firearms without a license, carries a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

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.

Christie credited Special Agents with ICE’s Cherry Hill Office, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge John P. Kelleghan in Philadelphia, DEA’s Atlantic City Resident Office, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Gerard P. McAleer in Newark, and ATF’s Atlantic City Satellite Office, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge mark Potter, for investigation of the case.

The Government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Diana Carrig of the Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Richard Harris, Esq. Philadelphia