

**UNITED STATES v. MASCHERONI**  
**PREPARED REMARKS BY**  
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Yesterday, a federal grand jury returned an indictment charging two individuals who previously worked as contractors at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) with communicating classified nuclear information to a person they believed to be a Venezuelan government official, and with conspiring to participate in the development of an atomic weapon. Fortunately, thanks to the investigative efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the defendants were not dealing with a foreign national, but instead with an undercover FBI agent. The individuals named in the indictment are Dr. Pedro Leonardo Mascheroni, a Ph.D. physicist, and his wife, Marjorie Roxby Mascheroni. They were arrested this morning, and made their initial appearance in federal court earlier today. Dr. Mascheroni was detained pending a hearing at 9:30 a.m. on September 20, 2010, and Marjorie Roxby Mascheroni was released on strict conditions of release.

My staff has provided you with the indictment charging the Mascheronis as well as the press release that was distributed earlier today by the Department of Justice and my Office. The indictment fully sets forth the charges against Dr. Mascheroni and Marjorie Roxby Mascheroni, and the press release provides a summary of the charges in the indictment as well as the factual allegations supporting those charges. I will not repeat the information that already is contained in those documents nor expand on that information.

Instead, I want to talk to you about the "Restricted Data" that is discussed in the indictment. "Restricted Data" is protected because, by definition, it relates to the design, manufacture and use of nuclear weapons and to special nuclear material. Our laws are designed to prevent "Restricted Data" from falling into the wrong hands because of the potential harm to our national security. LANL employees who are granted access to "Restricted Data" are charged with safeguarding that sensitive information and maintaining its secrecy unless and until the information is officially declassified by the United States government. That safeguarding responsibility continues even after they cease to be employed by the Lab. This is absolutely necessary for our National Security, and it is what the public expects. In this case, Dr. Mascheroni and Marjorie Roxby Mascheroni are alleged to have transmitted "Restricted Data," as well as conspiring in an effort to develop nuclear weapons. Consistent with their responsibility to protect our national interests, the staff at LANL has cooperated fully in the investigation leading to the indictment of Dr. Mascheroni and Marjorie Roxby Mascheroni.

The charges against the Mascheronis are very serious. They are the result of a long-term, cooperative investigative effort by the FBI, the Department of Energy, and prosecutors from the National Security Division of the Department of Justice and my Office. I want to commend the agents and prosecutors who have worked tirelessly to bring about this indictment. I also want to thank the staff at LANL for their support of this investigative effort.

I want to remind you that an indictment contains mere allegations and is not evidence of

guilt. Like all defendants, Dr. Mascheroni and Marjorie Roxby Mascheroni are entitled to a fair trial at which it will be the government's burden to prove their guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. We look forward to presenting our case in court, and will let a jury decide the guilt or innocence of the defendants.

I also want to note that the indictment does not allege that the government of Venezuela or anyone acting on its behalf sought or was passed any classified information. Nor does it charge any Venezuelan government officials or anyone acting on their behalf with wrongdoing. Further, the indictment does not charge any individuals currently working at LANL with wrongdoing.