

Department of Justice

Acting United States Attorney Kathleen Mehlretter
Western District of New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 31, 2009
www.usdoj.gov/usao/nyw

CONTACT: Peggy Kelly McFarland
PHONE: (716) 843-5877
FAX: (716) 551-3051

BUFFALO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ENGAGING IN A CONTINUING CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- Acting United States Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter announced that Pedro Antonetty, 28, of Buffalo, New York, pleaded guilty before United States Magistrate Judge H. Kenneth Schroeder, Jr. to Engaging in a Continuing Criminal Enterprise. This conviction carries a maximum possible sentence of imprisonment of at least 20 years and up to life as well as a fine of \$2,000,000.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy C. Lynch, who handled the case, stated that the defendant has been in custody since his arrest on August 11, 2007, by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The investigation leading to the defendant's guilty plea was aided significantly through the use of court-authorized interception orders which permitted federal agents to intercept telephone calls between Pedro Antonetty and his co-conspirators. According to AUSA Lynch, the investigation revealed that since 2003 and continuing to August 2007, the defendant operated a heroin distribution organization which distributed between 3 and 10 kilograms of heroin in the Buffalo area. Antonetty's organization was operated like a business, in that it had several "employees," who had responsibilities varying from distributing heroin, conducting surveillance to detecting law enforcement activity near the organization's drug houses, and making sure the houses were kept clean. Antonetty also employed Jorge Olivera, who has already been sentenced for his role in this criminal organization, to oversee the day-to-day operations of the Antonetty organization, including the packaging and distribution of heroin.

This plea of guilty resulted from an investigation on the part of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Safe Streets Task Force, under the direction of Cory B. Nelson, Acting Special Agent in Charge, ; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge David

DeJoe; New York State Police, under the direction of Major Matthew S. Renneman; New York State Parole, under the direction of Regional Director Eugenio Russi and Area Supervisor Donald Snyder; and the Buffalo Police Department, under the direction of H. McCarthy Gibson, Commissioner.

Sentencing will be scheduled by United States District Judge William M. Skretny.