

# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Kathleen Mehlretter  
Western District of New York

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## **BUFFALO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY TO POSSESS WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE COCAINE**

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- United States Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter announced that Reinaldo Rodriguez, 40, of Buffalo, New York, pleaded guilty before Chief United States District Judge Richard J. Arcara to conspiracy to distribute, and possess with intent to distribute, 5 kilograms or more of cocaine. This conviction carries a maximum possible sentence of imprisonment of at least 10 years and up to life, as well as a fine of \$4,000,000.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy C. Lynch, who handled the case, stated that the defendant was involved with a group of individuals that distributed between 5 and 15 kilograms of cocaine in the Buffalo area September 2005 and December 8, 2005. The defendant and his co-conspirators generally brought the cocaine into the Buffalo area by mailing the cocaine from Puerto Rico to Buffalo. On December 7, 2005, federal agents seized approximately 4 kilograms of cocaine sent from Puerto Rico to the defendant at locations in Buffalo, New York.

This plea of guilty resulted from an investigation on the part of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Charles Tomaszewski, Resident Agent in Charge, and the United States Postal Service, under the direction of Ronald C. Walker, Inspector in Charge.

Sentencing is scheduled for January 22, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. before Chief Judge Arcara.