



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**BULGARIAN NATIONAL GETS 292 MONTHS FOR POSSESSION  
ON HIGH SEAS OF COCAINE WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE**

United States Attorney Anthony J. Jenkins announced today that on June 27, 2008, Todor Yordanov Dragn, 44, was sentenced in District Court on St. Croix to 292 months in prison for possession on the high seas of cocaine with intent to distribute. In addition to the prison term, Dragn, who is a Bulgarian national, was sentenced to five years of supervised release, and ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine and \$100 special assessment.

Dragn and three crew members were indicted in 2004 for aiding and abetting each other in the possession on the high seas of cocaine with intent to distribute. On August 26, 2005, after a three-week trial, Dragn was convicted and the three crew members acquitted. Evidence introduced during the trial showed that Dragn and the three Bulgarian crew members were on board a Venezuelan sailing boat named the Sunrise, about 90 miles north of Venezuela, when a Dutch patrol vessel with a U.S. Coast Guard detachment observed objects being thrown overboard. The U.S. Coast Guard detachment made contact and boarded the Sunrise after receiving a statement of no objection from Venezuela. Dragn identified himself as the captain of

the Sunrise. Once on board, the detachment team found over 200 kilograms of cocaine hidden on board the vessel.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Denise A. Hinds. The case was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the U.S. Coast Guard.