

PRESS RELEASE

Erik C. Peterson
United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin
(608) 264-5158
TTY (608) 264-5006
www.usdoj.gov/usao/wiw

For Immediate Release

February 19, 2009

Contact Person

Paul W. Connell
Assistant U.S. Attorney

TWO SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR PARTICIPATING IN DRUG CONSPIRACY

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Maximo Pineda-Buenventura, 32, and Teodulo Pineda-Buenventura, 30, both citizens of Mexico, were sentenced yesterday by Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 210 months in prison and 60 months in prison, respectively, for conspiring to possess cocaine with intent to distribute. Both defendants will be deported to Mexico after they complete their prison sentences.

Between May 2007 and June 2008, the defendants were indicted in two separate cases with thirteen other individuals alleging that they conspired to possess cocaine with intent to distribute in the Watertown area. Maximo Pineda-Buenventura's co-defendants - Servando Herrera-Vazquez, Perfecto Pineda-Duque, and Will Bryant - have pleaded guilty and have been sentenced to prison. One remaining co-defendant, Efrain Pineda-Buenventura, is scheduled to be sentenced in March and three co-defendants remain fugitives.

Teodulo Pineda-Buenventura's co-defendants - Arturo Pineda-Lopez, Juan

Carlos Pineda Pineda, and Otoniel Mendoza - are scheduled to be sentenced in March. One of his co-defendants, Angel Ayala-Pineda, is a fugitive. Jesus Duque-Pineda was sentenced to six months in prison for his role in the case and has been deported to Mexico. The remaining defendant in the case, Gerardo Pineda-Soria, is scheduled for trial on March 30, 2009.

Beginning in February 2008, the United States received authority from Chief Judge Crabb to conduct wiretaps on several of the telephones being used by Maximo Pineda-Buenaventura and his co-defendants to conduct their drug operation. Approximately 8,000 calls were monitored by law enforcement officers in which the defendants were overheard conducting drug transactions.

On June 19, 2008, law enforcement officers executed 11 search warrants in the Western and Eastern Districts of Wisconsin, resulting in the arrest of Maximo and Teodulo Pineda-Buenaventura and their co-defendants, the seizure of over \$100,000 in United States currency, several automobiles, and multiple kilograms of cocaine.

At Maximo Pineda-Buenaventura's sentencing, Judge Crabb stated that a lengthy sentence was appropriate given Pineda-Buenaventura's leadership role in the conspiracy and his disregard for the law of the United States. Judge Crabb determined that Teodulo Pineda-Buenaventura deserved a lesser sentence since his role was to distribute cocaine in small quantities at the direction of his brother, Efrain Pineda-Buenaventura.

The charges against the defendants were the result of an investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Wisconsin Department of Justice - Division of Criminal Investigation, Dodge County Sheriff's Department, Jefferson County Drug

Task Force, Fort Atkinson Police Department, Watertown Police Department, and Janesville Police Department. The prosecution of these cases has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

#