

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Laura E. Duffy***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - June 28, 2012

United States Attorney Laura E. Duffy announced today the filing of a two-count indictment charging Pedro Jose Octavio Gonzalez-Corredor, Bolivar Cuero-Montano, Juan Sebastian Caicedo-Rengifo, and Cecilio Caicedo-Cuero with conspiracy to possess approximately 494 kilograms of cocaine with intent to distribute on board a vessel, and possession of approximately 494 kilograms of cocaine with intent to distribute on board a vessel. The defendants were arrested by the United States Coast Guard (USCG) on May 28, 2012, in international waters, approximately 100 miles off the western coast of Colombia.

According to a previously filed complaint in the case, USCG encountered a Colombian flagged go-fast vessel, the Emporio, off the coast of Colombia in the Eastern Pacific Ocean shortly after midnight on May 28, 2012. During the encounter and subsequent pursuit, USCG officers observed crew members on board the Emporio jettison bales of suspected contraband into the water. The complaint alleges that

the vessel only stopped after a USCG helicopter issued warning shots and disabling fire. The four defendants, all Colombian citizens, were found on board and all detained. The complaint further alleges that while no contraband was found onboard the Emporio, USCG later recovered approximately 19 bales of cocaine from the debris field. The defendants were arraigned on the indictment today before United States Magistrate Judge Ruben B. Brooks in federal court in San Diego, California. The defendants have been ordered detained pending trial in this case.

The defendants are next scheduled to be in court before United States District Judge Dana Sabraw on August 3, 2012, at 11:00 a.m. for a motion hearing.

DEFENDANTS

Criminal Case No. 12cr2550-DMS

Pedro Jose Octavio Gonzalez-Corredor
Bolívar Cuero-Montano
Juan Sebastian Caicedo-Rengifo
Cecilio Caicedo-Cuero

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 46, United States Code, Section 70503 - Conspiracy to Possess Cocaine with Intent to Distribute on Board a Vessel; Maximum Penalties: 10 Years to Life in Custody; \$4,000,000 fine

Title 46, United States Code, Section 70503 – Possession of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute on Board a Vessel; Maximum Penalties: 10 Years to Life in Custody; \$4,000,000 fine

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

United States Coast Guard
Drug Enforcement Administration

Neither a complaint nor an indictment is evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.