

Department of Justice

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias Northern District of Georgia

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100 KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE SEIZED IN GAINESVILLE

GAINESVILLE, GA - Initial appearances have just concluded this afternoon in Gainesville for defendants allegedly involved in the shipment of approximately 100 kilograms of cocaine recently seized in the Gainesville area, related to an ongoing drug investigation.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said, "This seizure of 100 kilograms of cocaine, which occurred on Tuesday, September 5, 2006, is the second seizure of a large quantity of drugs in Gainesville, Georgia, in just over two weeks. On August 21 and 22, 2006, law enforcement agents seized about 340 pounds of methamphetamine in Gainesville. We will continue to pursue the shipments of drugs into our District and pursue those who are importing the drug trade in our communities."

According to a criminal complaint filed in Court on September 6, Drug Enforcement agents from McAllen, Texas, DEA office identified a tractor-trailer truck which was to transport drugs to Atlanta. The truck was stopped in Texas and 100 kilograms of cocaine were found in a secret compartment in the trailer. The truck was driven to Atlanta, where, on September 5, contact was made with individuals who advised the driver to take the truck to Gainesville. Later that day, when the truck arrived in Gainesville, directions were given to the driver to take the truck to a warehouse area on Oakbrook Parkway, off Interstate 985, in Hall County. There, the load of cocaine was delivered to four Hispanic males. When DEA agents from Atlanta and McAllen arrived, the four fled. Agents arrested JOSE LUIS RODRIGUEZ, JOSE LUIS GALBAN and JORGE ARMANDO SEGOVIA-ROSALES, after chasing them down. The fourth person, ARNULFO RODRIGUEZ FLORES, was arrested on September 6, 2006, in an apartment in Doraville, Georgia. The four defendants appeared before a United States Magistrate this afternoon for initial appearances and bond hearings, and all four defendants were ordered held without bond.

Members of the public are reminded that the charge(s) contain only allegations. A defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Atlanta recommends parents and children learn about the dangers of drugs at the following web site: <u>www.justthinktwice.com</u>.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is <u>www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan</u>.