



Department of Justice

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ATLANTA MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR MAKING FALSE STATEMENT TO DEA

Atlanta, GA – GILBERTO PEREZ-BANUCHI, 42, of Atlanta, Georgia, was sentenced today by United States District Court Judge Richard Story on a charge of making false statements to a federal agency, relating to a Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) drug investigation.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said of the case, “Confidential informants are important sources of information in our campaign against illegal drugs. However, when such individuals intentionally give false statements, it not only puts the investigation at risk, but also risks the safety of our agents and others in the community. This sentence demonstrates that such lies can lead an informant to prison.”

PEREZ-BANUCHI was sentenced to ten months in custody to be followed by 3 years of supervised release. PEREZ-BANUCHI was indicted by a federal grand jury on June 5, 2007 on one count of making false statements to a federal agency, and pleaded guilty to the charge on January 3, 2008.

According to Nahmias and the information in court: PEREZ-BANUCHI made false statements to federal law enforcement officers, informing them that he observed large quantities of cocaine while present at a Lawrenceville residence during an unrelated drug transaction. These facts were later included in an affidavit for the search of the residence, which led to DEA’s seizure of 28 kilograms of cocaine and a .357 revolver. DEA later learned PEREZ-BANUCHI had lied to agents and had actually observed the drugs when he and another individual broke into the residence to steal money.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Atlanta High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force (HIDTA).

Assistant United States Attorney Cassandra J. Schansman prosecuted the case.

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 www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.