



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias
Northern District of Georgia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3/20/08

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan/>

CONTACT: Patrick Crosby

(404)581-6016

FAX (404)581-6160

TEXAS MAN SENTENCED TO OVER 17 YEARS IN PRISON FOR ROLE IN MONEY LAUNDERING CONSPIRACY

Gainesville, GA - KEVIN FELTS, 60, of Brazoria, Texas, was sentenced today by United States District Court Judge William C. O'Kelley on money laundering and weapon charges related to a multi-state drug operation.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said of the case, "This defendant was an integral member of a sophisticated drug-trafficking organization and ensured that literally millions of dollars in drug proceeds were returned to the organization's leaders in Mexico. His participation helped to fuel an organization that distributed literally hundreds of kilograms of cocaine in our community and elsewhere. He has now been rewarded with an appropriately long prison term. We hope that the sentence in this case sends a clear message that those who distribute narcotics in our community and those who help them will face significant jail time."

FELTS was sentenced to 17 years, 6 months in prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release, and was ordered to pay a fine of \$20,000. There is no parole in federal system. In December 2007, a federal jury convicted FELTS of conspiring to launder drug money, laundering drug funds and being a felon-in-possession of a firearm. The trial lasted approximately one week.

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: On March 12, 2005, Special Agents with the Drug Enforcement Administration received information that a small private plane would arrive at Lee Gilmer Airport in Gainesville to pick up over one million dollars in cash. When agents arrived at the airport, they witnessed FELTS and co-defendant NORA AGUILAR emerge from a small plane, which, at the time, was parked on the tarmac. FELTS then approached two unidentified men in the airport parking lot. FELTS took two suitcases from the men and returned to the plane. The men quickly departed the area.

As agents approached the plane, FELTS was in the process of loading the bags into the aircraft. When they detained him, the DEA agents realized he had a loaded handgun tucked into the waistband of his pants. At the time, they did not see AGUILAR

hiding inside of the darkened plane.

Agents asked AGUILAR to step down and asked for consent to search the plane and suitcases, which AGUILAR granted. Inside, agents found \$1.3 million in cash packaged in a manner consistent with drug proceeds. During the encounter, AGUILAR also produced another \$20,000 in cash hidden in her purse.

The agents followed the two unidentified men seen in the parking lot back to a home near Gainesville. Inside that home and another residence, agents discovered 17 kilograms of cocaine and over \$300,000 in drug proceeds.

During a subsequent interview, AGUILAR admitted she was part of a drug-trafficking operation that distributed narcotics in various cities in the Southeastern United States. Additionally, she also explained that, in the months prior to her arrest, she and FELTS regularly collected drug proceeds in at least five other U.S. cities. These funds were then smuggled back across the U.S.-Mexico border to drug traffickers operating in Mexico.

During a subsequent search of FELTS' home, agents found approximately \$120,000 in cash wrapped in a manner consistent with drug trafficking and a cache of firearms.

AGUILAR pleaded guilty and was sentenced in 2007 to 260 months in prison.

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

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Assistant United States Attorneys Kurt R. Erskine and Scott Hulsey 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.