



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOUR DEFENDANTS INDICTED ON DRUG TRAFFICKING CHARGES

Defendants Allegedly Conspired To Transport Cocaine Into The Atlanta Area

ATLANTA, GA - RENE PEREZ, 31, of San Marcos, Texas, ADRIAN PEREZ, 23, of San Marcos, Texas, JORGE OLIVO, 24, of Roswell, Georgia, and DONALD FONTANA, 68, of Plano, Texas, were arraigned today by a United States Magistrate Judge on felony charges of conspiring to possess, and of possession with the intent to distribute, cocaine that had been couriered by flight from Texas to Peachtree City (Georgia) Airport. JORGE OLIVO was also charged with possessing a weapon in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime and with being a felon unlawfully in possession of a firearm.

“This case demonstrates that even the quiet suburbs of Atlanta can be directly impacted by the illicit business conducted by Mexican based criminal organizations,” said Kenneth A. Smith, Special Agent in Charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in Atlanta. “We remain committed to working with our law enforcement partners to counter this type of activity and we are very appreciative of the support that they have given us in this particular case.”

District Attorney for the Griffin Judicial Circuit, (Fayette County), Scott Ballard, said of the case, “It is always reassuring to see federal and local law enforcement agencies teaming up to protect our citizens. Our office stands ready to assist in any way that we can to bring these offenders to justice.”

According to Acting United States Attorney Yates, the charges and other information presented in court: On August 29, 2009, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents in Atlanta received information regarding a plane owned and operated by pilot DONALD FONTANA that would be arriving that day at Falcon Field airport (KFFC) in Peachtree City, Georgia. Agents observed FONTANA land the Cessna aircraft at KFFC and exit with two passengers, later identified as RENE PEREZ and ADRIAN PEREZ. FONTANA, RENE PEREZ, and ADRIAN PEREZ then allegedly offloaded six bags from the aircraft. Agents maintained surveillance as FONTANA was dropped off at a local Sleep Inn hotel and RENE PEREZ and ADRIAN PEREZ were

dropped off with the six bags, at a local Best Western hotel.

Approximately one hour later, another vehicle arrived at the Best Western hotel driven by a person later identified as JORGE OLIVO. Agents observed OLIVO and ADRIAN PEREZ place the bags seen earlier into the vehicle outside. OLIVO then left the hotel area after the bags had been loaded and Peachtree City Police attempted to conduct a traffic stop on the vehicle operated by OLIVO. OLIVO allegedly observed the marked police car approaching and began to flee the scene at a high rate of speed. After a lengthy chase, OLIVO was apprehended and a search of the vehicle revealed several bags containing approximately 173 kilograms of cocaine. ADRIAN PEREZ was arrested after he attempted to flee the Best Western hotel that evening.

RENE PEREZ, ADRIAN PEREZ, JORGE OLIVO, and DONALD FONTANA were indicted by a federal grand jury on October 7, 2009. The indictment charges RENE PEREZ, ADRIAN PEREZ, JORGE OLIVO, and DONALD FONTANA with one count of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute cocaine, and one count of possession with the intent to distribute cocaine. The indictment also charges JORGE OLIVO with one count of possessing a weapon in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, and with one count of being a felon unlawfully in possession of a firearm. The indictment also includes a forfeiture provision, seeking to forfeit a Cessna 421-C airplane and a Colt .38 caliber handgun.

Members of the public are reminded that the indictment only contains charges. The defendants are presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove the defendants' guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Fayette County Sheriff's Department, and is being prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Fayette County District Attorney's Office.

Assistant United States Attorneys David E. Suchar and Kurt R. Erskine are prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact Sally Q. Yates, Acting 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.