



# Department of Justice

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## **GAINESVILLE CAR DEALER AND ACCOMPLICE CHARGED WITH LAUNDERING PURPORTED DRUG CARTEL MONEY**

### ***Pair Alleged to Have Laundered \$150,000 During a Three Month Period***

ATLANTA, GA - QUIRINO GARCIA-COSINO, 30, of Dacula, Georgia and DIANA PERALTA-TRUJILLO, 22, of Gainesville, Georgia, were charged in a criminal complaint earlier today with laundering drug money. GARCIA-COSINO is the owner of Community Auto Center, located on Atlanta Highway in Gainesville, Georgia. PERALTA-TRUJILLO is an employee of the business. GARCIA-COSINO and PERALTA-TRUJILLO made their initial appearances this afternoon in United States District Court in Gainesville before United States Magistrate Judge Susan S. Cole.

United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates said of the case, “Drug dealers depend on finding ways to launder the large amounts of cash that they make. Those who launder drug money inflict as much damage on the community as the drug dealers themselves by enabling them to continue their harmful businesses. These defendants allegedly were more than willing to provide this critical link in the drug trafficking chain.”

“ICE’s unique investigative authority allows our Special Agents to track money laundering syndicates to substantially stem the flow of drug money to other nations involved in the drug trade,” said Brock Nicholson, Acting Special Agent in Charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) in Atlanta. We will continue to hit drug traffickers where it hurts them most – their pockets.”

According to United States Attorney Yates, the criminal complaint, and information provided in court: From May 24, 2010, through July 20, 2010, GARCIA-COSINO and PERALTA-TRUJILLO allegedly accepted a total of \$150,000 from another individual who told them that the cash consisted of drug money of the Juarez Cartel. The complaint alleges that, in return for the cash, GARCIA-COSINO and PERALTA-TRUJILLO provided the individual with cashier’s checks that totaled \$150,000, minus a five or ten percent “commission” which GARCIA-COSINO retained for laundering the money. The complaint

alleges that the individual told GARCIA-COSINO and PERALTA-TRUJILLO that he needed to “clean” the large sums of money and send it to Houston, Texas, for delivery to the cartel in Mexico.

In addition, the complaint further alleges that earlier today, the Georgia State Patrol stopped GARCIA-COSINO with \$150,000 in large bills of U.S. currency which he had agreed to exchange for smaller denominations of U.S. currency that he believed to be drug proceeds. In return for exchanging the larger denominations for the smaller ones, GARCIA-COSINO was to receive a commission of 15 percent.

The charges carry a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. In determining the actual sentence, the Court will consider the United States Sentencing Guidelines, which are not binding but provide appropriate sentencing ranges for most offenders.

Members of the public are reminded that the criminal complaint 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.

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](http://www.justthinktwice.com).

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of ICE Homeland Security Investigations.

Assistant United States Attorney Michael Herskowitz is prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact Sally Q. Yates, United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, United States 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.justice.gov/usao/gan](http://www.justice.gov/usao/gan).