



Department of Justice

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CAMPUS POLICE OFFICER SENTENCED FOR ROLE IN ECSTASY DISTRIBUTION RING

Richard Trong Ong Conspired With Atlanta-Based Drug Leader to Distribute Tens of Thousands of Methamphetamine-Laced Ecstasy Pills in the Boston Area

ATLANTA, GA - RICHARD TRONG ONG, 37, of Quincy, Massachusetts, was sentenced today by Chief United States District Judge Julie E. Carnes to serve 14 years in federal prison on charges of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute ecstasy and methamphetamine.

United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates said of the case, "This defendant worked as a campus police officer, and was sworn to uphold the law and protect students from harm. Instead, he violated his oath and conspired with an Atlanta-based drug trafficking organization leader to distribute tens of thousands of ecstasy pills laced with deadly methamphetamine - illegal drugs which are targeted towards our youth. Now, he will join his fellow members of this international drug trafficking ring in federal prison."

Rodney G. Benson, the Special Agent in Charge of the DEA Atlanta Field Division said, "The overwhelming majority of police officers perform their duties with honor and professionalism. This defendant abused his position of trust by working with drug traffickers and must now pay a significant price by going to prison. This case would not have been possible without the dedicated cooperation of our law enforcement partners."

ONG was sentenced to 14 years in prison to be followed by 5 years of supervised release. ONG was convicted of these charges on August 22, 2008, after a week-long federal jury trial.

According to United States Attorney Yates, the charges and other information presented in court: In December 2004, a Canadian citizen, Chiem Mach, relocated from his home in suburban Toronto, Canada to Atlanta, Georgia, as the head of an ecstasy distribution operation which involved smuggling hundreds of thousands of ecstasy pills from Canada into the United States and eventually to Atlanta. In early August 2005, Mach traveled to Boston to meet with ONG, who used the alias of "Ken," with hopes of expanding Mach's drug operation into the greater Boston area. DEA special agents were able to identify ONG through a court-authorized wiretap of Mach's cellular telephone. On August 6, 2005, ONG met with Mach in a downtown Boston restaurant after ONG had finished his shift as a police officer at Suffolk University. One day after this meeting, Mach's drug courier delivered 40,000 ecstasy tablets to ONG, who in turn distributed 20,000 of the

pills to other co-conspirators. ONG was arrested on August 10, 2005 at his suburban Boston home shortly after agents seized the 20,000 pills in conjunction with a DEA operation. Mach was arrested with the majority of the Atlanta-based defendants on November 17, 2005, but died in federal custody awaiting trial. ONG is the last of the 24 defendants who were sentenced in connection with this investigation. ONG's co-conspirators are serving a combined 121 years in federal 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 Michael Herskowitz and G. Scott Hulsey prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact Sally Q. Yates, 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.justice.gov/usao/gan.