



U.S. Department of Justice

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ROCKFORD FEDERAL JURY FINDS ROCKFORD AREA RESIDENT GUILTY CONSPIRING TO DISTRIBUTE COCAINE AND HEROIN

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; RICHARD W. SANDERS, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Division of the Drug Enforcement Administration; ROBERT D. GRANT, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; PAUL LOGLI, Winnebago County State's Attorney; RICHARD MEYERS, Winnebago County Sheriff; DUANE E. WIRTH, Boone County Sheriff; STEVEN PUGH, Rockford Police Chief; JAN W. NOBLE, Belvidere Police Chief; and WILLIAM FEITHEN, DeKalb Police Chief, today made the following announcement:

Today, **RICARDO GALLARDO**, also known as "Solo," 26 (DOB: 12/11/1978), formerly of 4622 Sunderman, Rockford, Illinois, was found guilty in Rockford federal court of conspiring to distribute cocaine and heroin, distributing cocaine, possessing cocaine and heroin with the intent to distribute, and 4 counts of money laundering relating to the purchase of two vehicles, including a 2004 Volkswagen Touareg, with proceeds of the drug trafficking conspiracy. A second defendant tried with GALLARDO, **JORGE LUNA**, 30 (DOB: 8/19/1974), 627 Morgan Street, Rockford, Illinois, was found guilty of two counts of money laundering in relation to the purchase of the 2004 Volkswagen Touareg with drug trafficking proceeds as well.

The indictments of GALLARDO and LUNA were the result of a nine-month investigation by the Rockford DEA Task Force consisting of law enforcement agents and officers from the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department, the Rockford Police Department, the Boone County Sheriff's Department, the Belvidere Police Department, and the DeKalb Police Department. The Task Force seized eight kilograms of cocaine and one kilogram of heroin from the accused traffickers. Authorities also are seeking to forfeit assets valued at over \$300,000, allegedly belonging to members of the two trafficking organizations, under laws authorizing the seizure of properties used to conduct drug businesses or purchased with profits from those illegal businesses. These assets include two houses (4622 Sunderman Road & 6311 Forest Hills Road, Rockford), eight vehicles, jewelry, cash, and \$21,849 of proceeds from a February 12, 2004 Metro Centre concert allegedly financed by defendant Ricardo Gallardo through a company known as Mindright Entertainment, Inc. The Metrocentre has cooperated fully with the government's efforts to forfeit these concert proceeds.

U.S. District Court Judge Philip G. Reinhard set sentencing of GALLARDO for December 16, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. and sentencing for LUNA for December 16, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. GALLARDO faces a maximum possible penalty of life imprisonment, a maximum fine of \$4,000,000, and a term of supervised release following his release from prison of at least five years and up to life. LUNA

faces a maximum penalty of twenty years of imprisonment, a fine of \$500,000, and a term of supervised release following his release from prison of at least two years but not more than three years. The actual sentence will be determined by the United States District Court, guided by the federal Sentencing Guidelines and the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

These cases are being prosecuted in United States District Court by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph C. Pedersen and Mark T. Karner.

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