



# UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

*Acting United States Attorney William J. Flanagan  
Western District of Louisiana*

---

United States Courthouse • 300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201 • Shreveport, Louisiana 71101-3068 • (318) 676-3600  
United States Courthouse • 800 Lafayette Street, Suite 2200 • Lafayette, Louisiana 70501-7206 • (337) 262-6618

---

For Immediate Release  
Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Contact: Lisa Langley (318-676-3600)

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

## **DRUG TRAFFICKER SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT**

### *Defendant Receives Life in Prison*

**LAFAYETTE, La.:** A member of a lucrative drug trafficking organization responsible for transporting and distributing over 350 kilograms of cocaine and marijuana from the Brownsville, Texas area to the Church Point, La. area, was sentenced today to life in federal prison, Acting United States Attorney William J. Flanagan announced. Kenneth Gary Washington, 46, of Jeanerette, La., was sentenced by United States District Judge Patricia Minaldi for conspiracy to possess and distribute cocaine and marijuana, money laundering conspiracy, and unlawful use of a communication facility.

Kenneth Washington and 17 others were indicted on a variety of drug trafficking and firearms charges following an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigation dubbed "Operation Fowl Play" and "Rio Gallo." In October 2009, Washington and his ex-wife, Jessica Frilot Washington, the remaining two defendants in this case, were both convicted after a nine-day trial. This drug trafficking organization was responsible for transporting and distributing cocaine and marijuana from the Brownsville, Texas area to the Church Point, La. area, Florida, Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia, and other parts of Louisiana, with large amounts of

drug proceeds being transported back to Brownsville. The organization utilized horse trailers, fighting rooster cages with false compartments, and 18-wheelers to transport the drugs. As a result of “Operation Fowl Play” and “Rio Gallo,” approximately 111 kilograms of cocaine and assets valued at approximately \$2 million were seized.

Jessica Frilot Washington is awaiting sentencing. The remaining co-defendants have previously pled guilty and have been sentenced, with the exception of one co-defendant who is awaiting sentencing.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) - Lafayette, LA and Brownsville, TX offices, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation (Lafayette and Brownsville), Louisiana State Police, and the Cameron County District Attorney’s Office, Brownsville, Texas. The Drug Enforcement Administration, Lafayette, Louisiana Post of Duty, is a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) initiative comprised of special agents of the DEA, and agents from the Iberia Parish Sheriff’s Office, Lafayette Parish Sheriff’s Office, Lafayette Police Department, Vermilion Parish Sheriff’s Office, St. Mary Parish Sheriff’s Office, Acadia Parish Sheriff’s Office, St. Landry Parish Sheriff’s Office, Opelousas Police Department and the Louisiana National Guard.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys John Luke Walker and J. Collin Sims.

###