

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Four New Jersey Men Charged in Thefts from Three Interstate Shipments

(More)

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NEWARK – Four New Jersey men, two of whom were arrested, were charged today with conspiring to steal merchandise contained in three different tractor-trailer loads, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

According to a criminal Complaint, the tractor-trailers contained goods with a combined wholesale value of more than \$250,000.

Charged in the criminal Complaint are:

- Lawrence Anthony Baker, a/k/a “L,” 32, of Newark; , who was arrested. [Note that the criminal Complaint lists the lead defendant as Lawrence LNU (“last name unknown”). Baker’s name and identity were verified upon arrest.]
- Ramon Perez, a/k/a “Junior,” 42, of Newark, who was arrested. [Note that the criminal Complaint lists the defendant as Pablo E. Perez. Perez’s identity was also verified upon arrest.];
- Luis Marin, 39, of North Bergen, who is being sought by Special Agents of the FBI.
- Juan E. Martinez, a/k/a “Jimmy,” 38, of Elizabeth, who is also being sought.

The two defendants who were arrested are scheduled to have initial appearances at 2:15 p.m. today before U.S. Magistrate Judge Patty Shwartz.

The Complaint alleges that in November 2007, law enforcement officers learned that three tractor trailers containing men’s apparel had been stolen from a trucking facility in Newark.

On or about November 30, the Complaint alleges defendant Luis Marin approached an individual and asked for his help in securing warehouse space to store three trailers of clothing. The individual contacted law enforcement, who, in turn, began an undercover operation of defendant Marin and others. The investigation included establishing warehouse space in Jersey City and conducting video and audio surveillance, which resulted in today’s arrests.

In December 2007, the Complaint alleges that law enforcement learned of other stolen tractor-trailer loads which they later confirmed were brought by Marin, Perez and Martinez to the Jersey City warehouse.

During the period from in or about Nov. 28, 2007, through in or about Jan. 15, 2008, the Complaint alleges that all four defendants were involved in the theft of tractor-trailers with loads of goods including men’s clothing, coffee creamer and body wash and

women's suits. The tractor-trailers were unloaded and the goods stored in the Jersey City warehouse.

The Complaint alleges that the defendants would provide "test samples" to potential buyers of the loads of goods so that the prospective buyers could determine whether they had the ability to resell the goods prior to deciding whether to purchase the entire load from the defendants. On or about Jan. 13, the Complaint alleges, Baker sold a portion of the men's shirts for \$12,400 in cash.

All four defendants are charged with conspiracy to commit theft from an interstate shipment. The charge carries a maximum statutory penalty of five years in prison a maximum fine of \$250,000.

A criminal Complaint is merely an accusation. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Christie credited Special Agents of the FBI, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Weysan Dun with the investigation and today's arrests. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Deborah J. Gannett.

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