



*United States Attorney
District of New Jersey*

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**MEMBER OF PERFUME WAREHOUSE ARMED ROBBERY SCHEME
INVOLVING NYPD OFFICERS PLEADS GUILTY**

NEWARK, N.J.– Danny Bannout, 35, of Brooklyn, New York, pleaded guilty today to conspiring to commit the armed robbery of a Carlstadt, N.J. perfume warehouse, in which he, together with three active New York Police Department officers, one former NYPD officer and others stole approximately \$500,000 in perfume while holding 11 employees hostage, U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

Bannout entered his guilty plea before United States District Judge William H. Walls. In addition to the conspiracy charge, Bannout pleaded guilty to one count of transporting stolen goods in interstate commerce following a separate burglary he committed of a storage facility in North Brunswick, New Jersey. The defendant was remanded pending his sentencing, scheduled for November 15, 2010.

Bannout was arrested on June 23, 2010, and charged in a superseding Indictment unsealed the same day along with NYPD Officer Kelvin L. Jones and Luis Reyes of New York, N.Y., and Anselmo Jimenes, a/k/a “Ansemo Jimenes” of Brooklyn, N.Y. NYPD Officers Brian Checo and Richard LeBlanca of New York; former NYPD Officer Orlando Garcia of New York; and Gabriel Vargas, Alan Bannout, and Luis R. Morales of Brooklyn were all charged in an earlier Complaint filed on March 5, 2010. Jones was also charged on March 5, 2010, in a separate Complaint as part of the continuing investigation by federal authorities into the heist.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in federal court:

The defendants conspired to obstruct commerce by robbing hundreds of boxes of perfumes and fragrances from a warehouse used by a company known as In-Style USA, Inc. in Carlstadt.

At his plea hearing, Bannout admitted that from December 2009 to February 2010, he conspired with NYPD Officer Jones and others to rob the In-Style warehouse. Bannout also admitted that he and some of the other members of the robbery crew previously stole merchandise valued at \$5,000 or more from a storage unit located in North Brunswick, N.J. and then transported the stolen merchandise to New York.

Checo pleaded guilty before Judge Walls on March 23, 2010, to conspiring to commit the armed robbery. LeBlanca, Garcia and Morales pleaded guilty before Judge Walls on April 20, April 26, and May 26, 2010, respectively, to the same charge. On May 5, 2010 and May 18,

2010, respectively, Alan Bannout and Garbriel Vargas pleaded guilty to the robbery conspiracy charge, as well as to one count of transporting stolen goods in interstate commerce following their burglary of the storage unit in North Brunswick.

Danny Bannout pleaded guilty to one count of robbery conspiracy, which carries a maximum statutory penalty of 20 years in prison, and one count of transportation of stolen goods, which carries a maximum statutory penalty of 10 years in prison. Each count also carries a maximum fine of \$250,000.

Fishman credited Special Agents of the FBI, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Michael B. Ward in Newark, New Jersey, for conducting the investigation. Fishman also thanked the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of John L. Molinelli, as well as the Carlstadt Police Department and the NYPD Internal Affairs Bureau, for their work.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Eric T. Kanefsky and Christopher J. Gramiccioni of the U.S. Attorney's Office Special Prosecutions Division.

As for the defendants with pending cases, the charges against them are merely accusations and they are considered innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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Defense counsel: Harry C. Batchelder, Esq., New York, N.Y.