

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Camden Man Sentenced to 90 Months in Federal Prison for Conviction on Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine Charge

(More)

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CAMDEN – A Camden man was sentenced to 90 months in federal prison today for his role in a conspiracy to distribute one kilogram of cocaine, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge Robert B. Kugler also ordered Walter Gilmore, 50, a.k.a. “Butch,” to serve five years of supervised release upon the completion of his prison term.

On Feb. 22, 2007, after two hours of deliberations, a jury convicted Gilmore of a one-count Indictment that charged conspiracy to distribute and possession with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine. The jury also decided on the government’s behalf regarding a forfeiture allegation for \$20,418.

The case was tried by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason Richardson.

During the eight-day trial before Judge Kugler, the jury heard testimony and viewed evidence regarding Gilmore’s conspiracy with Cesar Severino, 45, of Camden, and others to distribute cocaine in the Camden area. Severino was murdered on July 8, 2006, in Camden. A 27-count Superseding Indictment, returned on Oct. 25, 2006, alleges that Moises Hernandez, 26, of Camden, protected his drug operations through the use of violence, which included the murder of Severino. Severino allegedly supplied crack cocaine to a drug set controlled by Hernandez and his co-defendant Tarrell Alford, 25, of Pennsauken.

In convicting Gilmore, the jury found that the defendant purchased one kilogram of cocaine for approximately \$20,000 from Severino on June 26, 2006. During the trial the jury heard that law enforcement seized the money that was used to purchase the cocaine from Severino’s supplier, Julio Lebron, 38, of Philadelphia, a.k.a. “Mostro,” shortly after the drug transaction.

In determining the actual sentence, Judge Kugler consulted the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Christie credited Special Agents of the DEA, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Gerard P. McAleer, and ICE, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Kyle Hutchins, as well as member agencies of the Camden H.I.D.T.A. task force, under the direction of Acting Camden County Prosecutor Joshua M. Ottenberg, and the Camden Police Department, under the direction of Arturo Venegas, Supersession Executive, for

investigation of the case.

The Government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason Richardson of the Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorneys: Roland Jarvis, Esq. Philadelphia