

# NEWS

---

United States Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey  
401 Market Street, Fourth Floor  
Camden, New Jersey 08101

---

---



---

---

***Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney***

---

---

***More Information?*** Contact the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

***News on the Internet:*** News Releases, related documents and advisories are posted short-term at our website, along with links to our archived releases at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. ***Go to: <http://www.njusao.org/break.html>***

---

---

Assistant U.S. Attorney  
HOWARD WIENER  
856-968-4926

mora1119.rel  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Nov. 19, 2007

---

---

## Major Camden Cocaine Dealer's Right-hand Man Pleads Guilty

---

---

(More)

---

---

Greg Reinert, PAO  
Public Affairs Office  
<http://www.njusao.org>

856-757-5233  
973-645-2888

**Breaking News (NJ) <http://www.njusao.org/break.html>**

---

---

CAMDEN – A leader of a major Camden cocaine distribution network pleaded guilty today for his role in a conspiracy to distribute more than 150 kilograms of cocaine, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

Francisco Morales, 33, of Camden, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Joseph E. Irenas to Count One of a Superseding Indictment, which charged him with conspiring with Raymond Morales and others to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute five or more kilograms of powder cocaine, and 50 grams or more of crack cocaine. Judge Irenas scheduled sentencing for Feb. 29.

At his plea hearing, Morales admitted that from about 1992 until 2004, his cousin Raymond Morales, organized and led a major powder cocaine, crack cocaine and marijuana distribution organization in Camden. Francisco Morales admitted that beginning in 1993, he assisted the organization by serving as Raymond Morales's right-hand man. In that capacity, Morales discussed the organization's drug trafficking activities virtually every day with Raymond Morales, he admitted. Francisco Morales admitted that some of his daily duties included cooking powder cocaine into crack cocaine; delivering kilograms of cocaine to the organization's wholesale customers; collecting money owed to the organization from the organization's customers; and supplying Raymond Morales' Atlantic Avenue drug set with marijuana and crack cocaine.

Morales admitted that over the life of the conspiracy he delivered more than 150 kilograms of cocaine to various customers of the organization, and delivered more than 1.5 kilograms of crack cocaine to the Atlantic Avenue drug set.

Raymond Morales, 35, of Camden, pleaded guilty on July 27, 2005, to a nine-count Superseding Information. The Superseding Information, which was unsealed on May 9, 2007, charged Morales with six counts of ordering a murder in the furtherance of a Continuing Criminal Enterprise ("CCE"); one count of witness tampering by ordering the attempted murder of a witness; one count of distribution and possession with intent to distribute over 500 grams of cocaine; and one count of being a principal administrator of a CCE that operated in Camden.

The charge to which Francisco Morales pleaded guilty carries a mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years in prison and a maximum penalty of life imprisonment with a fine of up to \$4 million.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Irenas will consult 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 the Special Agents of the DEA, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Gerard P. McAleer, in Newark, and Investigators with the Camden County Prosecutor's Office Homicide Unit, along with member agencies of the Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA Task Force, under the direction of Acting Camden County Prosecutor Joshua M. Ottenberg, with the investigation of Morales' drug organization.

The Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA Task Force comprises the U.S. Attorneys' Offices for the Districts of New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania, The Camden County Prosecutor's Office, Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, DEA, FBI, ATF, Camden Police Department, New Jersey State Police, Philadelphia Police Department, New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice, Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office, Camden County Sheriff's Department, Delaware River Port Authority Police and the U.S. Marshal's Service.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Howard Wiener and Diana V. Carrig of the U.S. Attorney's Criminal Division in Camden.

– end –

Defense Attorney: Edward Crisonino, Esq. Haddon Township