

NEWS

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North Bergen Man Pleads Guilty to String of Armed Bank Robberies

(More)

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NEWARK – A North Bergen man pleaded guilty today in connection with a string of armed bank robberies in both New Jersey and New York, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

Eduardo Quevedo, 44, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Susan D. Wigenton to a one-count Indictment charging armed bank robbery. Judge Wigenton continued the defendant's detention and scheduled sentencing for July 24.

At his plea hearing, Quevedo admitted that between June 2005 and January 2006, he committed 10 bank robberies, with five occurring in northern New Jersey and five in New York.

Quevedo further admitted that he carried and displayed a handgun during nine of the bank robbers and that he stole thousands of dollars from the banks, as follows:

• June 27, 2005	Banco Popular, 8501 Kennedy Boulevard, North Bergen, NJ	\$6,344
• September 14, 2005	North Fork Bank, 2159 White Plains Road, Bronx, NY	\$5,038
• October 21, 2005	Bank of New York, 8101 Tonnelle Avenue, North Bergen, NJ	\$1,850
• October 24, 2005	Bank of New York, 1044 Mclean Avenue, Yonkers, NY	\$11,771
• November 18, 2005	North Fork Bank, 375 Broad Avenue, Ridgefield, NJ	\$5,120
• December 7, 2005	Chase Manhattan Bank, 800 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY	\$7,050
• December 12, 2005	Bank of New York, 725 River Road, Edgewater, NJ	\$6,000
• December 16, 2005	JP Morgan Chase Bank, 984 Broadway, Yonkers, NY	\$6,920
• December 23, 2005	Apple Bank, 1075 Central Avenue, Greenburgh, NY	\$3,400
• January 18, 2006	Bank of America, 2115 69th Street, North Bergen, NJ	\$13,300

On Jan. 18, 2006, within hours of the tenth bank robbery, an investigation by agents assigned to the FBI's Newark Division revealed that Quevedo was the offender. That same day, an arrest warrant for Quevedo was issued by a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Newark. The next morning, during a pre-dawn raid, Newark FBI agents, assisted by officers of the North Bergen Police Department, arrested Quevedo at his residence in North Bergen, New Jersey. During the arrest, the FBI recovered from Quevedo's

bedroom an AK-47 assault rifle, two high-capacity magazines, a 9-millimeter handgun, and numerous rounds of ammunition, in addition to other evidence linking Quevedo to the bank robberies.

Further investigation by FBI agents assigned to offices in New Jersey and New York revealed that Quevedo had committed the remaining nine bank robberies.

Quevedo faces a maximum prison term of 20 years and a fine of \$250,000 or twice the aggregate loss to the victims or gain to the defendant. The defendant has agreed to be sentenced for all 10 bank robberies as determined under the advisory United States 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. Although Judge Wigenton must calculate a recommended sentencing range according to the advisory Guidelines, the judge has the authority to impose a more or less severe sentence up to the statutory maximum of 20 years' imprisonment.

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

Quevedo has been detained in the custody of the U.S. Marshal since his arrest.

Christie credited Special Agents of the FBI's Newark Division, under the direction of Acting Special Agent in Pedro Ruiz, as well as FBI agents and local police officers in New York who investigated Quevedo's crimes. Christie also acknowledged that this result could not have been achieved without the assistance and cooperation of Michael J. Garcia, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and his assistants.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney L. Judson Welle of the Criminal Division in Newark.

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Defense Attorney: Chester Keller, Esq., First Assistant Federal Public Defender, Newark.