Department of Justice

United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian
Northern District of New York

7 ARRESTED IN COCAINE AND CRACK CONSPIRACY

Large Cocaine and Crack Distribution Ring Charged

Syracuse, NY—United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian announced the arrest and indictment of seven (7) individuals in connection with a vast cocaine and crack cocaine distribution network operating between New York City, Lawrence, Massachusetts, and Syracuse, New York. Those arrested and indicted in the charged cocaine and crack cocaine distribution conspiracy include the following:

ROBINSON PEREZ-ACEVEDO, a/k/a "Chivo," a/k/a "Hector Roque" age 35, Providence, Rhode Island;
BLADAMIR RODRIGUEZ-CORDOVA, a/k/a "Tull Wilson," age 34, Bronx, New York;
FERMINA PEGUERO-SOTO, age 59, Syracuse, New York;
DEJUAN TIGNER, a/k/a "Tig," age 37, Syracuse, New York;
YASHEEM FAGAN, age 35, Syracuse, New York;
MICHAEL COOPER, age 45, Syracuse, New York; and
CHARLES JACKSON, a/k/a "Bigg," age 36, Syracuse, New York.

All of these individuals have been indicted by a federal grand jury with conspiring to possess with the intent to distribute and distributing more than five (5) kilograms of cocaine and more than fifty (50) grams of crack cocaine. If convicted, the defendants face a mandatory ten year minimum term of imprisonment up to a maximum of life imprisonment, up to a $4 million fine, and at least five years of supervised release following any period of incarceration.[1]

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[1]The charges announced today are mere allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

These prosecutions are part of a year long multi-agency law enforcement investigation which targeted the transportation and distribution infrastructure of a Dominican drug trafficking organization operating in the northeast area. The Syracuse part of this far-reaching investigation revealed a major cocaine trafficking pipeline from Lawrence, MA to Syracuse, NY. The cocaine was transported by couriers from Lawrence to Syracuse and then broken down from kilogram quantities to street level amounts of powder cocaine and crack cocaine. The organization involved at least two (2) Dominican Republic Nationals who had re-entered the United States illegally after a prior deportation (PEREZ-ACEVEDO and RODRIGUEZ-CORDOVA). PEREZ-ACEVEDO and RODRIGUEZ-CORDOVA created fictitious identities to assist in resuming their illegal drug trafficking activities once back in the United Sates and had their finger prints altered to avoid detection by law enforcement. The organization also used a vehicle with a hidden hydraulic compartment to facilitate the transportation of cocaine.

Some members of the organization were the victims of a drug robbery during the late fall of 2009, in Syracuse, NY, resulting in the shooting of PEREZ-ACEVEDO. During the robbery, the suspects stole a large quantity of cocaine and a large sum of cash from an apartment being utilized by the organization.

Also during January 2010, the DEA seized 3 kilograms of cocaine in Syracuse, NY as part of the investigation with an estimated street value of at least $150,000, and approximately $30,000 in U.S. currency that was suspected of being drug proceeds.

The arrests resulted from an investigation undertaken by the Syracuse and Boston Resident Offices of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Fulton Police Department, the Syracuse Police Department, the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department, and the New York State National Guard, with assistance from the U.S. Marshals Service, the Onondaga County District Attorney's Office and the New York State Police.

There are additional arrests expected and anyone with information can contact the DEA Syracuse Office at (315) 477-1700.

Further questions or inquiries may be directed to Assistant United States Attorney Carla Freedman, the prosecutor handling the case, at (315) 448-0672.

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