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Three Members of Syracuse Drug Ring Plead Guilty

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NEWS RELEASE

Richard S. Hartunian, United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, announces that three defendants pled guilty today in U.S. District Court in Syracuse to drug trafficking charges relating to their role in a major drug organization that was operating in Syracuse from early 2008 through at least April 2009.

AARON BROWN, age 29, of Syracuse, pled guilty to conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute more than 300 grams of crack cocaine. At sentencing, he faces a term of imprisonment of at least 20 years, up to life, a fine of up to \$8 million and a supervised release term of at least 10 years following any period of incarceration.

MAURICE KEARSE, age 31, of Syracuse, pled guilty to conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute more than 28 grams (one ounce) of crack cocaine. At sentencing, he faces a term of imprisonment of at least 10 years, up to life, a fine of up to \$4 million and a supervised release term of at least 8 years following any period of incarceration. As part of his plea, **KEARSE** also acknowledged that based on his two prior felony drug convictions he qualified as a career offender under federal sentencing guidelines, thus pushing his prison sentence into the 20 year range.

TECOY INGRAM, age 28, of Syracuse, pled guilty to conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute up to 200 grams of cocaine. At sentencing, he faces up to 30 years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$2 million and a supervised release term of at least 6 years following any period of incarceration.

These prosecutions resulted from a joint investigation undertaken by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Syracuse Police Department, the Onondaga County District Attorney's Office, the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department and the New York State Police.

Further inquiries can be directed to Assistant U. S. Attorney John M. Katko, Syracuse, New York at (315) 448-0916.

