



Department of Justice

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Northern District of New York

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21 ARRESTED FOR CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE SYNTHETIC DRUG “MOLLY”

Syracuse, NY—United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian today announced the indictment of twenty-two (22) individuals who have been charged with conspiring to distribute an analogue controlled substance known on the street as “Molly.” The large scale drug trafficking conspiracy, based in Central New York, involved co-conspirators located in Florida, California, Texas, Virginia and elsewhere. Sixteen of the twenty-two co-conspirators were arrested early this morning, including the following:

**WILLIAM HARPER (age 52) of Syracuse, NY,
GERRY GERO (age 38) of Syracuse, NY,
MELISSA TIFFANY (age 37) of Syracuse, NY,
JEREMY ALLEN (age 34) of Grapevine, TX,
ERNEST SNELL (age 41) of Syracuse, NY,
CHARLES DEMOTT, JR. (age 44) of Liverpool, NY,
KENNETH FERIA (age 40) of Hollywood, CA,
ROSARIO GAMBUZZA (age 46) of East Syracuse, NY,
MARY OOT-GAMBUZZA (age 48) of East Syracuse, NY,
ALICIA McMANUS (age 25) of Hollywood, CA,
JON RADWAY (age 32) of Pompey, NY,
PHILLIP MASSARA, JR. (age 27) of Clay, NY,
LISA VANCAMP (age 29) of Baldwinsville, NY,
JENNIFER DEFIO (age 34) of Syracuse, NY,
ROSARIO SORBELLO (age 29) of Baldwinsville, NY,
RYAN CARTER (age 31) of Syracuse, NY, and**

Four defendants—Vincent Cizenski, Stephen Marshall, Matthew Mieszkowski, Jr., and Arafat

Wahdan remain at large. **Anyone with information regarding the four fugitives are asked to**

contact the Central New York Fugitive Task Force at (315) 473-7625. All information provided to the Fugitive Task Force will remain confidential.

All of these individuals have been indicted by a federal grand jury and charged with, among other things, conspiring to possess with the intent to distribute and distributing 4-Methylmethcathinone (4-MMC) and 4-Methyl-N-Ethylcathinone (4-MEC), often referred to as “Molly.” 4-MMC and 4-MEC are controlled substance analogues of methcathinone, a Schedule I controlled substance. If convicted, the defendants face a term of imprisonment of up to twenty (20) years, up to a \$1 million fine, and at least three (3) years of supervised release following any period of incarceration.¹

These prosecutions resulted from an investigation first undertaken in the spring of 2009 by the Syracuse Resident Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Onondaga County Sheriff’s Office, the Syracuse Police Department, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Onondaga County District Attorney’s Office, the United States Marshals Service, the New York State Police, and the United States Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of New York. The investigation, which included wiretaps on two of the defendants’ telephones, revealed that this “Molly” trafficking organization was responsible for the distribution of over one hundred (100) kilograms of “Molly” during the course of the conspiracy from March 2010 through April 2011. The “Molly,” believed to be manufactured in factories in China, was shipped to distributors in the Syracuse area, as well as other areas in the United States, where it was then distributed to others by members of the conspiracy.

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

To date, the following items have been recovered during this investigation: approximately 25 kilograms of “Molly,” with a street value of at least \$525,000; 24 guns; over \$100,000.00 in U.S. currency; 4 vehicles; a Bayliner boat; and drug paraphernalia.

Further questions or inquiries may be directed to Assistant United States Attorney Carla Freedman, the prosecutor handling the case, at (315) 448-0672 or DEA Assistant Special Agent in Charge James Burns, at (315) 477-1700.

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