



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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NEW CITY MAN INDICTED BY U.S.
FOR ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE A MURDER-FOR-HIRE

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, today announced the indictment of MARIO RAMIRO ARAGON on charges that he attempted to arrange the murder-for-hire of a relative.

According to the Criminal Complaint and the Indictment, on or about May 23, 2007, a confidential source informed members of the Spring Valley, New York, Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") that the source had been approached by MARIO RAMIRO ARAGON. ARAGON wanted to arrange for the murder of his brother-in-law, and asked the source whether the source could help ARAGON find someone to commit the murder. An undercover officer, posing as the would-be murderer for hire, then contacted ARAGON, and in a telephone conversation, ARAGON agreed to pay the undercover \$500 to commit the murder.

Later that day, ARAGON and the undercover met in person in New City, New York, to discuss the details of the murder. At that meeting, ARAGON gave the undercover \$200 as an advance payment for the murder. The remaining \$300 was to be paid after the murder was committed. ARAGON gave the undercover a physical description of the intended victim, and agreed to meet with the undercover the following day to show the undercover the house where the intended victim lived.

The following day, ARAGON and the undercover met again in New City. ARAGON confirmed to the undercover that he wanted the intended victim killed, showed the undercover the house where the intended victim lived, and identified the intended victim in a photograph. ARAGON was arrested shortly thereafter.

ARAGON was indicted on one count of using a facility in

interstate commerce with intent that a murder-for-hire be committed. If convicted, he faces a maximum prison sentence of 10 years and a maximum fine of \$250,000.

Mr. GARCIA praised the outstanding efforts of the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Spring Valley Police Department in the investigation of this case.

Assistant United States Attorney NOLA B. HELLER is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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