



*United States Attorney
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NEW CITY MAN SENTENCED TO 87 MONTHS IN PRISON
FOR ARRANGING A MURDER FOR HIRE

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that MARIO RAMIRO ARAGON was sentenced today to 87 months in prison for arranging a murder for hire of his brother-in-law.

The sentence was imposed by United States District Judge COLLEEN MCMAHON in White Plains federal court. ARAGON pleaded guilty on December 12, 2007, to paying an undercover officer, posing as the would-be murderer for hire, to murder his brother-in-law.

In sentencing ARAGON, Judge MCMAHON stated: "The crime of murder for hire is a particularly heinous crime." She said that this was only the second case of its kind in her 13 years on the bench but she noted that ARAGON had "a cavalier attitude toward taking another person's life."

According to the criminal Complaint, ARAGON gave the undercover officer \$200 as an advance payment for the murder. The remaining \$300 was to be paid after the murder was committed. ARAGON gave the undercover officer a physical description of the intended victim, and agreed to meet with the undercover officer the following day to show him the house where the intended victim lived.

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

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 Attorneys NOLA B. HELLER and ANNA M. SKOTKO are in charge of the prosecution.

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