



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**U.S. CHARGES 10 WITH HEROIN AND COCAINE DISTRIBUTION
CONSPIRACY**

LEV L. DASSIN, the Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today the arrests of seven individuals for drug trafficking crimes allegedly committed in and around Middletown in Orange County, New York.

A total of 10 defendants were charged in a three-count Indictment filed yesterday in White Plains federal court in connection with alleged participation in a heroin and cocaine distribution ring.

The defendants in custody are scheduled to be arraigned later today before United States Magistrate Judge GEORGE A. YANTHIS.

Arrested today were GILBERT ALVAREZ, a/k/a "G," LUCAS ALVAREZ, a/k/a "Blaze," CASEY MARROW, a/k/a "Rec," ANTHONY LOPEZ, a/k/a "Live," DUVAL BRISCOE, a/k/a "Snoop," WALTER ALSTON, a/k/a "Tom," and NICHOLAS DIAZ.

If convicted, eight of the defendants face a mandatory penalty of 10 years in prison and a maximum penalty of life in prison. Two others face penalties of from 5 to 40 years in prison.

Mr. DASSIN praised the cooperative investigative efforts of the Westchester County Drug Enforcement Task Force of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Mid-Hudson Drug Enforcement Task Force of the New York State Police, the Orange County Emergency Services Unit of the Orange County Sheriff's Office, and the Middletown Police Department.

Assistant United States Attorneys BENJAMIN ALLEE and SARAH KRISOFF are in charge of the prosecution.

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

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