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Southern District of New York

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**COLOMBIAN HEROIN TRAFFICKER SENTENCED IN MANHATTAN
FEDERAL COURT TO 10 YEARS IN PRISON**

*Defendant Was High-Ranking Member of Organization Headed by Colombian Drug Kingpin
Francisco Gonzalez Uribe*

Preet Bharara, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that JOHN FREDY NORENA-CORREA, a high-ranking member of the narcotics trafficking organization led by Colombian drug kingpin Francisco Gonzalez Uribe, was sentenced today in Manhattan federal court to 10 years in prison. NORENA-CORREA, 40, pled guilty on September 2, 2011, to conspiring to import and distribute heroin into the United States. His sentence was imposed by U.S. District Judge Lewis A. Kaplan.

Manhattan U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said: "John Fredy Norena-Correra was a key lieutenant for one of the world's most dangerous and prolific drug kingpins. He will now join his former leader behind bars."

According to the Superseding Indictment and other documents filed in Manhattan federal court, as well as statements made during the guilty plea proceedings:

NORENA-CORREA was a member of an international narcotics-trafficking organization that shipped thousands of kilograms of cocaine and heroin to various locations in Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, and other countries. The narcotics were then brought to the United States and various locations in Europe.

During an undercover operation in early 2009 – with the cooperation and assistance of the government of the Dominican Republic – the DEA secured a large quantity of heroin from individuals linked to NORENA-CORREA. NORENA-CORREA was intercepted on recorded telephone conversations arranging a large shipment of approximately 19 kilograms of heroin from Colombia to the Dominican Republic that was ultimately intended for the United States. The heroin that was seized by the DEA during these operations had an estimated wholesale value of approximately \$1,000,000.

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In addition to a prison term, Judge Kaplan sentenced NORENA-CORREA to three years of supervised release. NORENA-CORREA was also ordered to pay a \$200 special assessment fee.

Gonzalez Uribe, designated by the U.S. Department of Justice as one of the world's most significant drug kingpins, was arrested in the Dominican Republic in 2009 and expelled to the United States to face U.S. charges. In June 2010, Gonzalez Uribe pled guilty to narcotics importation and distribution conspiracy charges. He was sentenced in November 2010 to 30 years in prison.

Mr. Bharara praised the outstanding efforts of the Drug Enforcement Administration; the DEA Caribbean Field Division, the DEA Bogota Country Office, the DEA Cartagena Resident Office, the DEA Santo Domingo Country Office, and the DEA New York Field Division; and all other cooperating law enforcement agencies. Mr. Bharara also thanked the Government of the Dominican Republic, the Dominican Direccion Nacional de Control de Drogas, and the Dominican Air Force, and expressed his gratitude to the Government of Colombia and the Colombian Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad for their cooperation and assistance in the investigation and prosecution of NORENA-CORREA.

The case is being handled by the Office's Terrorism and International Narcotics Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Benjamin Naftalis and John P. Cronan are in charge of the prosecution.

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