



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

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CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
ELLEN DAVIS,  
EDELI RIVERA,  
JESSIE ERWIN  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
(212) 637-2600

**JAMAICAN DRUG TRAFFICKER SENTENCED IN MANHATTAN  
FEDERAL COURT TO 20 YEARS IN PRISON**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that DAVID CHRISTIE was sentenced today to 20 years in prison for his role in conspiring to import multiple kilogram-quantities of cocaine and marijuana into the United States using commercial airlines, and to distribute those drugs in major U.S. cities, including New York. CHRISTIE was sentenced in Manhattan federal court by U.S. District Judge ROBERT W. SWEET, who presided over the seven-day jury trial at which CHRISTIE was found guilty.

According to the documents previously filed in this case and the evidence introduced at trial:

From 2004 through 2008, CHRISTIE supplied cocaine and marijuana for importation from Jamaica into the United States. He worked with co-conspirators at the Montego Bay Airport, who ensured that the drugs were hidden in commercial aircraft.

CHRISTIE and his co-conspirators used two primary methods for concealing the narcotics. In one method, co-conspirators would stash the narcotics beneath the toilet of a flight bound for the United States. After the flight landed and cleared customs, a co-conspirator would board the plane for the next leg of its trip. While on that flight, the co-conspirator would walk to the bathroom, remove the hidden narcotics, and conceal them either on his or her person or in carry-on baggage. Because the plane had already cleared customs, the passenger would not be searched upon exiting. Once in the United States, the co-conspirator would deliver the narcotics to other co-conspirators for distribution.

In the second method, the co-conspirators would hide the narcotics behind panels in the cargo section of planes departing Jamaica. Once the flights reached airports in the United States, co-conspirators employed as luggage handlers at various airlines removed the drugs and handed them off to other members of the organization, who then distributed the drugs to CHRISTIE's customers in New York. Over the course of the conspiracy, CHRISTIE imported more than 150 kilograms of cocaine and more than 100 kilograms of marijuana using this method.

In addition to the prison term, Judge SWEET sentenced CHRISTIE, 44, of Montego Bay, Jamaica, to five years of supervised release and ordered forfeiture of over \$3 million.

Mr. BHARARA praised the outstanding investigative work of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) in this case, and thanked the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection for their assistance in this matter.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys CHRISTIAN R. EVERDELL and CHRISTOPHER D. FREY are in charge of the prosecution.

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