



*United States Attorney
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**UNITED STATES ANNOUNCES ARRESTS OF DRUG TRAFFICKERS
IN PELHAM BAY SECTION OF THE BRONX**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, JOHN P. GILBRIDE, the Special Agent in Charge of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") in New York, and RAYMOND W. KELLY, the Police Commissioner of the City of New York, announced today arrests of members of a drug organization that distributed heroin and crack cocaine in the Pelham Bay Section of the Bronx (the "Pelham Bay Drug Organization"). One of the leaders of the Pelham Bay Drug Organization is DOMINICK CICALÉ, Sr., the father of DOMINICK CICALÉ, Jr., an alleged captain in the Bonnano organized crime family of La Cosa Nostra under indictment in the Eastern District of New York.

The takedown announced today comes after an approximately fourteen month-long investigation into drug trafficking in the Pelham Bay Section of the Bronx. The success of the investigation relied on the brave work of two undercover officers with the New York City Police Department ("NYPD") who infiltrated the Pelham Bay Drug Organization. The charges and today's arrests of six of the defendants were the result of close coordination among the NYPD, the DEA, the New York State Police ("NYSP"), and the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.

The defendants named in the Indictment, unsealed today in Manhattan federal court, are: DOMINICK CICALÉ, Sr., a/k/a "Donnie," GINO VIZZARI, a/k/a "G," JOSEPH BORELLI, a/k/a "Joey," BONNIE BITSKO, JOSEPH FILIPONE, a/k/a "Joe Monk," EDWARD McCABE, a/k/a "Eddie," and JEREMIAH SMITH, a/k/a "Jerry."

If convicted, the defendants face maximum sentences of between 20 years and life in prison. The defendants apprehended earlier today will be presented in Manhattan federal court, 500 Pearl Street, 5th Floor, later this afternoon.

Mr. GARCIA praised the collective efforts of the NYPD, the DEA, and the NYSP.

Assistant United States Attorneys PABLO QUIÑONES and DAVID MASSEY 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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