



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
YUSILL SCRIBNER,
REBEKAH CARMICHAEL
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600

QUEENS MAN SENTENCED TO 42 MONTHS IN PRISON
FOR CONSPIRING TO DISTRIBUTE MILLIONS OF
COUNTERFEIT COPIES OF MOTION PICTURES

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that RAFAEL GONZALEZ was sentenced yesterday by United States District Judge JED S. RAKOFF to 42 months' imprisonment for his role in a conspiracy to distribute millions of counterfeit copies of motion pictures. GONZALEZ, of Richmond Hill, Queens, was originally charged in a criminal Complaint, along with 20 other defendants, with the creation and distribution of millions of counterfeit copies of motion pictures in circulation around the world. GONZALEZ pleaded guilty, on February 22, 2007, to a two-count felony Information charging: (1) conspiracy to commit copyright infringement and to traffic in counterfeit labels, and (2) to substantive trafficking in counterfeit labels. According to the Complaint, the Information, and statements made during GONZALEZ's guilty plea in Manhattan federal court:

GONZALEZ operated a printing factory in the New York City area for the primary purpose of designing and printing packaging paper that utilized the official images and artwork of copyrighted motion pictures. The paper printed by GONZALEZ's factory was used to package millions of pirated copies of motion pictures sold in DVD format. The packaging paper was sold to co-conspirators (known within the counterfeiting industry as "Wholesalers") who also purchased master copies (known as "Masters") of the counterfeit motion pictures from other co-conspirators (known as "Cammers"). The Cammers used video recording devices such as camcorders or videocameras to film unauthorized copies of motion pictures while those motion pictures were exhibited in movie theaters located primarily in New York City and nearby areas.

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative efforts of the

Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Assistant United States Attorneys JOSHUA KLEIN and
MICHAEL A. LEVY are in charge of this prosecution.

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