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**NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER CHARGED IN NARCOTICS
TRAFFICKING AND ROBBERY CONSPIRACIES**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, MARK J. MERSHON, the Assistant Director-in-Charge of the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), and RAYMOND W. KELLY, the Police Commissioner of the City of New York, announced the unsealing of charges against New York City Police Department ("NYPD") police officer DARREN MOONAN for conspiracy to distribute narcotics and conspiracy to commit robberies of drugs and drug proceeds from narcotics traffickers. Six other men were also arrested on charges including narcotics trafficking conspiracy, robbery conspiracy, and conspiracy to transport stolen vehicles across state lines. The individuals were charged in Complaints unsealed last week in Manhattan federal court. According to the Complaint against MOONAN, unsealed on July 9, 2007 (the "MOONAN Complaint"):

MOONAN was an NYPD police officer assigned to the 102nd Precinct in Queens. From late 2006 until July 2007, MOONAN associated with and assisted a crew of individuals who committed robberies and burglaries of narcotics stash houses and private residences in the New York City area, Nassau County, and Pennsylvania. MOONAN's primary responsibility as part of this robbery crew was to provide security by interfacing with any law enforcement officers that the crew encountered in the course of

committing their crimes. For example, on several occasions, after the crew committed a robbery or burglary, MOONAN drove the proceeds of the crime away from the scene, so that if he were stopped by a law enforcement officer, he could inform the officer that he was himself a New York City police officer. MOONAN also used his position to assist the crew by checking whether they were under investigation and checking license plates of cars they considered suspicious.

According to the MOONAN Complaint, on one occasion in which he assisted the crew, the crew stole from a residence a safe that contained approximately \$390,000 in drug proceeds. On a second occasion, the crew went to a warehouse and stole approximately 200 pounds of marijuana. On a third occasion, the crew went to a truck stop in Pennsylvania, where they robbed approximately \$420,000 in narcotics proceeds from a truck driver, who had earlier brought the drugs in from Canada. On all occasions in which he acted with the crew, MOONAN carried a gun and an NYPD badge.

DARREN MOONAN was arrested on July 8, 2007. Also arrested on that date were DIN CELAJ and MOHEED OASMAN, a/k/a "Feisal." According to a Complaint unsealed on July 9, 2007 (the "CELAJ/OASMAN Complaint"), CELAJ and OASMAN were charged with narcotics trafficking and robbery conspiracy, as well as conspiracy to transport stolen vehicles across state lines, in connection with their activities as part of the alleged robbery crew.

In addition, five other crew members -- XHAVIT CELAJ, a/k/a "Jerry," BESMIR BOSH NJAKU, ALI ZHERKA, and ARBER SELIMI -- were arrested late last week. All were charged with conspiracy to transport stolen vehicles across state lines, except ZHERKA, who was charged with narcotics trafficking and robbery conspiracy.

DARREN MOONAN faces a maximum penalty of 60 years in prison if convicted on the charges. DIN CELAJ and MOHEED OASMAN, a/k/a "Feisal," each face a maximum penalty of 65 years in prison if convicted. ALI ZHERKA faces a maximum penalty of 25 years in prison if convicted. XHAVIT CELAJ, BESMIR BOSH NJAKU, and ARBER SELIMI each face a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison if convicted.

Mr. GARCIA praised the efforts of the FBI and the NYPD in the investigation of this case.

Assistant United States Attorney BENJAMIN GRUENSTEIN

and Special Assistant United States Attorney RICHARD P. LAWSON, of the Bronx District Attorney's Office, are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Complaints are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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