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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 28, 2007

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LEADERS OF CRACK COCAINE RING
SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that three leaders of a massive crack cocaine organization -- which controlled the sales of crack in the Mitchel Houses in the South Bronx -- were each sentenced today to 30 years in federal prison after being convicted on charges of participating in a conspiracy, from 1994 to January 2005, to distribute crack cocaine. The defendants, JEFFREY MARTINEZ, 33, NELSON MARTINEZ, 35, and NATHANIEL SLATER, 33, were convicted on March 14, 2007, in Manhattan federal court following a two-week jury trial before the HONORABLE JED S. RAKOFF. In imposing sentence today, JUDGE RAKOFF stressed the "enormity" of the crime and observed that the defendants and their confederates had turned the Mitchel Houses into their "own personal fiefdom" for drug dealing. According to the evidence at trial:

JEFFREY and NELSON MARTINEZ, who are brothers, and

NATHANIEL SLATER, were among the bosses who controlled the sale of crack cocaine in the Mitchel Houses development, located within the 40th Precinct in the Bronx, New York. Each residential apartment building located within the Mitchel Houses neighborhood operated as a market for the sale of crack cocaine controlled by conspiracy members and associates. The members of the ring sold multiple kilograms of crack cocaine at each building over a period of years. The drug sales were conducted around the clock, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Narcotics-trafficking workers at each building filled the following roles: (i) "pitchers," who collected money from customers and served customers with crack cocaine, (ii) "managers," who collected money from the pitchers and supervised the re-supplying of crack cocaine to the pitchers for sale to customers, and (iii) "bosses," one to three individuals at each building who oversaw all drug-trafficking operations at the building. This oversight included the purchase of narcotics from outside suppliers and the distribution of narcotics proceeds among workers. JEFFREY MARTINEZ and NELSON MARTINEZ were the bosses of 205 Alexander Avenue and NATHANIEL SLATER was the boss of 350 and 360 East 137th Street.

While each building operated as a market for crack cocaine, workers from each building in the Mitchel Houses also collaborated in the sale of crack cocaine. Managers and bosses

from different buildings frequently shared apartments in which to store crack cocaine; pitchers and managers sometimes moved between different buildings, working for different bosses; and pitchers, managers, and bosses worked together in retaliating against outside individuals who threatened the area controlled by members of the conspiracy.

Additionally, members of the crack conspiracy and their associates committed, attempted, and threatened to commit acts of violence to protect and expand their drug-trafficking operations. When members of rival gangs threatened their territory, conspiracy members and their associates gathered to assault those rivals and shared firearms among themselves for the purpose of protecting their territory and/or retaliating against rival drug organizations.

Today's sentences are the result of an extensive joint investigation by the United States Attorney's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the New York City Police Department. On March 3, 2005, an Indictment was unsealed that charged 43 individuals with participating in a narcotics conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine in the Mitchel Houses from 1999 to January 2005. Since that time, 30 defendants have been convicted and sentenced as set forth below:

Defendant	Term of Imprisonment
TREY BOGLIN	126 months
ALVIN MARTINEZ	120 months
ANTHONY WARD	135 months
SHAWN SAUNDERS	120 months
ANDREW ALSTON	121 months
JONATHAN BETHUNE	78 months
ROBERT BILLINGS	120 months
MICHAEL COLEMAN	60 months
SAMUEL FLEMINGS	60 months
SEAN GILKES	121 months
KARON JOHNSON	120 months
ROGER LEE	60 months
GREGORY MATHIS	97 months
SHAWN MAYZYCK	60 months
CLAYTON MILLS	120 months
JASON MITCHELL	110 months
JOSUE MEJIA	120 months
GREGORY MOORE	98 months
JASON OATMAN	76 months
PEDRO RABELL	92 months
RAHEEM RICHARDSON	60 months
JEREMY ROBINSON	60 months
SAMMY SANTANA	120 months
XAVIER SAVILLA	60 months
DENISE SHEPARD	60 months
CHRIS SMITH	60 months
KASIEM SMITH	110 months

ANGEL SOTO	70 months
JAMAL WILLIAMS	120 months
DION WINDOR	46 months

| The cases are still pending against the other defendants.

Mr. GARCIA stated that: "Working with our law enforcement partners, the Government was able to use the federal narcotics laws to apprehend and imprison those individuals who had turned the Mitchel Houses into their own drug marketplace and created a climate of fear and danger for the law-abiding residents of that neighborhood."

Mr. GARCIA praised the outstanding efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the New York City Police Department, and thanked the New York City Housing Authority, Office of Inspector General and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Inspector General for their work in the investigation.

The case is being prosecuted by the Violent Crimes Unit of the United States Attorney's Office. Assistant United States Attorneys DAVID V. HARBACH II, JOHN J. O'DONNELL, and KATHERINE LEMIRE are in charge of the prosecution.

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