



***United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York***

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**NARCO-TERRORISM CHARGES ADDED TO INDICTMENT OF  
COLOMBIAN PARAMILITARY LEADER AND NARCOTICS KINGPIN**

LEV L. DASSIN, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today the return of a Superseding Indictment charging DANIEL RENDON-HERRERA, a/k/a "Don Mario," a/k/a "El Viejo," a/k/a "El Tio," a/k/a "La Senora" -- a leader of the Colombian terrorist group *Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia* ("AUC") -- with narco-terrorism conspiracy. RENDON-HERRERA, who was designated by the President as a Foreign Narcotics Kingpin on May 29, 2009, had previously been charged in this District with conspiring to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization and to import thousands of kilograms of cocaine into the United States.

According to the Superseding Indictment returned today, which adds the narco-terrorism charge to a previously filed Indictment in this case:

The AUC is a Colombian right-wing paramilitary and drug-trafficking organization, designated by the U.S. State Department as both a Foreign Terrorist Organization and a Specially-Designated Global Terrorist Organization. The AUC is engaged in armed conflict with the *Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia* ("FARC"), Colombia's main left-wing guerilla group, and seeks to remove FARC sympathizers from positions of power and influence in Colombia. To support its political and terrorist objectives, the AUC involves itself in narcotics trafficking, for example by "taxing" narcotics traffickers operating in areas under AUC control. The AUC uses the narcotics proceeds to secure military-grade arms, including automatic assault rifles and grenades. Prior to his capture by Colombian National Police on April 15, 2009, DANIEL RENDON-HERRERA was the leader of a "Bloque" of 5,000 armed AUC paramilitary fighters responsible for establishing and maintaining AUC control over the Cordoba and Antioquia regions of Colombia. RENDON-HERRERA helped finance his Bloque's terrorist activities, which included the kidnapping of civilians, by

levying a "tax" on cocaine that he permitted to pass through areas under his Bloque's control.

Under the Superseding Indictment, DANIEL RENDON-HERRERA, 44, is now charged with conspiracy to distribute narcotics with intent to support terrorism (prohibited by the 2006 Federal Narco-Terrorism statute); conspiracy to provide material support to the AUC, a foreign terrorist organization; and conspiracy to import narcotics into the United States. RENDON-HERRERA faces a maximum sentence of life in prison and a mandatory minimum sentence of twenty years in prison on the narco-terrorism charge; a maximum sentence of fifteen years in prison on the material support charge; and a maximum sentence of life in prison and a mandatory minimum sentence of ten years in prison on the narcotics importation charge.

The case is assigned to United States District Judge LORETTA A. PRESKA. DANIEL RENDON-HERRERA is currently in custody in Colombia under Colombian charges.

Mr. DASSIN praised the outstanding investigative work of the Drug Enforcement Administration's Bogota Country Office and the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force -- which is comprised of agents and officers of the DEA, the New York City Police Department, and the New York State Police -- as well as the work of the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Mr. DASSIN also thanked the Colombian National Police and the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of International Affairs for their ongoing assistance.

The prosecution is being handled by the Office's International Narcotics Trafficking Unit. Assistant United States Attorneys BENJAMIN A. NAFTALIS and JOCELYN E. STRAUBER are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges and allegations contained in the Indictment are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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