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UPDATED

FORTY-ONE MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES OF "TRINITARIOS"
CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION INDICTED FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING
IN WASHINGTON HEIGHTS

*Thirty-four Defendants In Custody Following Arrests in
Washington Heights and the Bronx*

LEV L. DASSIN, the Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, RAYMOND W. KELLY, the Police Commissioner of the City of New York, JOHN P. GILBRIDE, the Special Agent-In-Charge of the New York Field Division of the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA"), and RONALD B. TURK, the Special Agent-in-Charge of the New York Field Division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF"), announced today the unsealing of an Indictment charging forty-one members or associates of the "Trinitarios" criminal organization with drug trafficking.

The Indictment and arrests stem from a two-year investigation by the NYPD, ATF and DEA into the Trinitarios.

Beginning last night and continuing through this morning, approximately two hundred law enforcement officers, including members of the NYPD, ATF, and DEA, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") and the United States Marshals Service for the Southern District of New York ("USMS"), have been making arrests and conducting searches in connection with the Indictment and investigation, primarily in Washington Heights and the Bronx.

Thirty defendants charged in the Indictment have been arrested: REYNALDO MONTILLA, a/k/a "Albert Montilla," a/k/a "Fat Al," a/k/a "Fats," JONATHAN FELIZ, a/k/a "Sweet Pea," a/k/a "Snoop," AMANTINO RAMOS, a/k/a Sco, ZENEN TORRES, JASMINE TORO, a/k/a "Jazzy," KALEL AGUIRRE, GIL GARRIS, a/k/a "Spec," MARCO RODRIGUEZ, a/k/a "Black," ELVIS RODRIGUEZ, a/k/a "Moses Rodriguez," a/k/a "Moises Rodriguez," a/k/a "Mo," ENSO QUEZADA, a/k/a "Banana," CHRISTOPHER GARCIA, a/k/a "Goof," ALBERTO MONTILLA, a/k/a "Clue," JASON PADILLA, a/k/a "Blaze," a/k/a "J Blaze," ARIEL JAZMIN, a/k/a "Black," HUBERT RODRIGUEZ, a/k/a "Biyego," a/k/a "BG," OCTAVIO ORTIZ, a/k/a "AV," EDWIN ESPINAL, a/k/a "Nerd," JONATHAN DANIEL NARVAES, a/k/a "JD," LUIS HERNANDEZ, a/k/a "Luigi," GABRIEL ABREU, a/k/a "Weezy," JOREL AGUIRRE, MARVIN LOPEZ, a/k/a "Joker," WILLIAM PEREZ, a/k/a "Rico," ALDO PEREZ, KERVIN JAQUEZ, a/k/a "Kurve," ELVIN SARITA, a/k/a "Dre," JORDAN PENA, EDDY PENA, a/k/a "Eddie Jones" ARCHI GUZMAN, and MARLON FELIZ; four defendants are currently in the custody of New York State: JONAS COLON, a/k/a "Shooter," YASHUA TORRES, a/k/a "Jiggy," a/k/a "Jiggety," a/k/a "Jigga," ISAIS LEBRON, and FERNANDO FELIZ; and seven defendants remain at large: JUAN PARADAS, a/k/a "Borracho," a/k/a "Borrachito," a/k/a "Johnny," RUDY SANTANA, a/k/a "Gordo," JOHASSON GOMEZ CHONG, a/k/a "Skinny," JOSE RODRIGUEZ, a/k/a "Jay Jay," NATASHA EVERTZ, a/k/a "Tasha," KELVIN COMPRES, and EVER LONZO, a/k/a "JR."

At the time of the arrests, law enforcement personnel seized more than twenty pounds of marijuana, a firearm, machetes and another knife, among other items.

As alleged in the Indictment:

The Trinitarios is a criminal organization consisting primarily of individuals of Dominican descent, and their associates, that operates in the Washington Heights neighborhood of New York, New York, and elsewhere. The Trinitarios organization operated and controlled drug trafficking on at least four city blocks in the area of West 171st Street through West 174th Streets in the Washington Heights neighborhood of New York, New York. Various defendants face charges relating to the sale

of marijuana, MDA, cocaine and crack cocaine.

Members of the Trinitarios also committed acts of violence to protect and expand their drug-trafficking operation, and to protect fellow members of the organization. For example, on January 19, 2009, JONATHAN FELIZ, a/k/a "Sweet Pea," a/k/a "Snoop," allegedly ordered other members of the Trinitarios organization, including RUDY SANTANA a/k/a "Gordo," to kill a rival drug dealer who had encroached on territory controlled by the Trinitarios organization. That day, SANTANA and others attempted to fulfill FELIZ's order by firing several shots at the rival drug dealer in the vicinity of 174th Street and Audubon Avenue, New York, New York.

In total, thirty-eight defendants were charged with a marijuana-distribution conspiracy; eight defendants were charged with an MDA-distribution conspiracy; six defendants were charged with cocaine distribution, two defendants were charged with crack cocaine distribution or conspiracy, and three defendants were charged with possessing, carrying, and using firearms in furtherance of the marijuana- and MDA-distribution conspiracies, including during the shooting in the vicinity of 174th street and Audobon Avenue. A chart outlining the charges and potential penalties is attached.

Mr. DASSIN stated: "Thanks to the work of dedicated federal agents and police officers, the residents of Washington Heights have safer places to live today, and those who would endanger their community with drugs and violence are now called to face justice."

Police Commissioner RAYMOND W. KELLY stated: "Through the sustained efforts of the NYPD and our Federal partners the streets there are safer and the suspects are scarcer with so many in custody."

Mr. GILBRIDE stated: "Today, law enforcement has caught up with the Trinitarios organization. The residents of Washington Heights deserve to live in a neighborhood free from drug trafficking and the associated violence. Today's arrests go a long way to making that quest a reality."

Mr. TURK stated: "Today's arrests are a confirmation of law enforcement's commitment to making our neighborhoods safer. Targeting and arresting armed narcotics traffickers remains a top priority for ATF and we, along with our partners, will continue to focus on combating violent crime."

Mr. DASSIN thanked the NYPD, ATF, and DEA for their tireless work in this investigation, and thanked ICE and the USMS for their assistance with the case. He added that the investigation is continuing.

Assistant United States Attorneys NOLA B. HELLER, MICHAEL D. MAIMIN, and JENNIFER E. BURNS 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.

Count	Charge	Defendants	Potential Prison Term
1	Conspiracy to distribute 100 kilograms or more of marijuana	REYNALDO MONTILLA, a/k/a "Albert Montilla," a/k/a "Fat Al," a/k/a "Fats," JONATHAN FELIZ, a/k/a "Sweet Pea," a/k/a "Snoop," AMANTINO RAMOS, a/k/a "Sco," ZENEN TORRES, JUAN PARADAS, a/k/a "Borracho," a/k/a "Borrachito," a/k/a "Johnny," JASMINE TORO, a/k/a "Jazzy," KALEL AGUIRRE, GIL GARRIS, a/k/a "Spec," RUDY SANTANA, a/k/a "Gordo," MARCO RODRIGUEZ, a/k/a "Black," ELVIS RODRIGUEZ, a/k/a "Moses Rodriguez," a/k/a "Moises Rodriguez," a/k/a "Mo," ENSO QUEZADA, a/k/a "Banana," CHRISTOPHER GARCIA, a/k/a "Goof," ALBERTO MONTILLA, a/k/a "Clue," JONAS COLON, a/k/a "Shooter," JASON PADILLA, a/k/a "Blaze," a/k/a "J Blaze," ARIEL JAZMIN, a/k/a "Black," HUBERT RODRIGUEZ, a/k/a "Biyego," a/k/a "BG," OCTAVIO ORTIZ, a/k/a "AV," YASHUA TORRES, a/k/a "Jiggy," a/k/a "Jiggety," a/k/a "Jigga," EDWIN ESPINAL, a/k/a "Nerd," JONATHAN DANIEL NARVAES, a/k/a "JD,"	Maximum: 40 years in prison Mandatory minimum: 5 years in prison

		<p> LUIS HERNANDEZ, a/k/a "Luigi," GABRIEL ABREU, a/k/a "Weezy," JOHASSON GOMEZ CHONG, a/k/a "Skinny," JOSE RODRIGUEZ, a/k/a "Jay Jay," JOREL AGUIRRE, NATASHA EVERTZ, a/k/a "Tasha," MARVIN LOPEZ, a/k/a "Joker," WILLIAM PEREZ, a/k/a "Rico," ALDO PEREZ, KERVIN JAQUEZ, a/k/a "Kurve," ELVIN SARITA, a/k/a "Dre," KELVIN COMPRES, JORDAN PENA, EDDY PENA, a/k/a "Eddie Jones," EVER LEONZO, a/k/a "JR," and ISAIAS LEBRON </p>	
1	Conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute MDA	<p> JONATHAN FELIZ, a/k/a "Sweet Pea," a/k/a "Snoop," AMANTINO RAMOS, a/k/a "Sco," ELVIS RODRIGUEZ, a/k/a "Moses Rodriguez," a/k/a "Moises Rodriguez," a/k/a "Mo," JASON PADILLA, a/k/a "Blaze," a/k/a "J Blaze," ARIEL JAZMIN, a/k/a "Black," OCTAVIO ORTIZ, a/k/a "AV," ELVIN SARITA, a/k/a "Dre," and ARCHI GUZMAN </p>	Maximum: 20 years in prison
2	Sale of cocaine	<p> MARVIN LOPEZ, a/k/a "Joker" </p>	Maximum: 20 years in prison
3	Sale of cocaine	<p> MARVIN LOPEZ, a/k/a "Joker" </p>	Maximum: 20 years in prison

4	Sale of crack cocaine	MARVIN LOPEZ, a/k/a "Joker"	Maximum: 40 years in prison Mandatory minimum: 5 years in prison
5	Sale of crack cocaine	MARVIN LOPEZ, a/k/a "Joker"	Maximum: 40 years' imprisonment Mandatory minimum: 5 years in prison
6	Sale of cocaine	JASON PADILLA, a/k/a "Blaze," a/k/a "J Blaze"	Maximum: 20 years in prison
7	Sale of cocaine	JASON PADILLA, a/k/a "Blaze," a/k/a "J Blaze," FERNANDO FELIZ, and MARLON FELIZ	Maximum: 20 years in prison
8	Sale of cocaine	WILLIAM PEREZ, a/k/a "Rico"	Maximum: 20 years in prison
9	Conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute crack cocaine	JONATHAN FELIZ, a/k/a "Sweet Pea," a/k/a "Snoop"	Maximum: Life in prison Mandatory minimum: 10 years in prison
10	Possessing, carrying, and using firearms in furtherance of narcotics trafficking	REYNALDO MONTILLA, a/k/a "Albert Montilla," a/k/a "Fat Al," a/k/a "Fats," JONATHAN FELIZ, a/k/a "Sweet Pea," a/k/a "Snoop," and RUDY SANTANA, a/k/a "Gordo"	Maximum: Life in prison Mandatory minimum: 10 years in prison, consecutive to any other term imposed

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