

United States Attorney Southern District of New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MARCH 24, 2011

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MANHATTAN U.S. ATTORNEY CHARGES SEVEN MEMBERS OF COCAINE AND HEROIN DISTRIBUTION RING

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, John G. McCabe, Jr., the Acting Special Agent-in-Charge of the New Jersey Division of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA"), and Peter T. Edge, the Special-Agent-in-Charge of the New Jersey Office of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement's ("ICE") Homeland Security Investigations ("HSI") in Newark today announced the unsealing of a Complaint charging seven additional members of a Newark, New Jersey-based criminal organization with conspiracy to distribute large quantities of heroin and cocaine.

According to the Complaint and other documents filed in Manhattan federal court:

Between October 2010 and March 2011, ASIS RAMON LISSER-MARADIAGA, MILTON MONROY-INTERIANO, RAMON GAMEZ, a/k/a "Moncho," MIGDALIA RIVERA, a/k/a "Dalia," JOSE SANTIAGO-LOBOY, a/k/a "Tyson," GEORGE LASERNA, a/k/a "Cuba," KEITH RODRIGUEZ-COLON, a/k/a "Colon," a/k/a "Moreno," and others conspired to distribute kilogram quantities of heroin and cocaine. A grand jury previously returned an indictment charging MARIO HERNANDEZ, a/k/a "Paisita," and GEOVANY MONROY-INTERIANO, alleged in the Complaint to be members of this conspiracy, with violations of federal narcotics laws.

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U.S. Attorney BHARARA praised the outstanding investigative work of the DEA and ICE's Homeland Security Investigations Office in Newark. He also thanked the Newark Police Department and the Essex County Prosecutor's Office for their ongoing assistance. Mr. BHARARA added that the investigation is continuing.

This case is being handled by the Office's Narcotics Unit. Assistant United States Attorneys JUSTIN ANDERSON and JONATHAN COHEN are in charge of the prosecution.

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

11-081 ###