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SOLDIER IN GENOVESE ORGANIZED CRIME FAMILY
PLEADS GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY MURDER,
CAPO PLEADS GUILTY TO EXTORTION

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that two defendants -- one soldier and one capo of the Genovese Organized Crime Family -- pleaded guilty today in Manhattan federal court, before United States Magistrate Judge HENRY PITMAN, to conspiracy to commit murder and extortion, respectively. According documents filed in Manhattan federal court and the defendant's plea proceedings:

PASQUALE DELUCA, a/k/a "Scop," a soldier in the Genovese Organized Crime Family ("Genovese Crime Family"), pleaded guilty to an Information which charged him with conspiring to murder RALPH COPPOLA. In September of 1998, the then-Acting Boss of the Genovese Crime Family, FRANK SERPICO, a/k/a "Farby," authorized the murder of RALPH COPPOLA, a Soldier in the Genovese Crime Family, with the consent of other leaders of the Family. Later the same month, at Serpico's instruction, DELUCA met with Ralph COPPOLA in the Bronx, New York. Following that meeting, COPPOLA was murdered by members and associates of the Genovese Crime Family.

During his guilty plea allocution, DELUCA admitted belonging to the criminal enterprise described in the Information, namely the Genovese Crime Family, and that he helped to arrange a meeting in the Bronx between another participant in the conspiracy and COPPOLA, after which COPPOLA was killed.

ARTHUR NIGRO, a capo in the Genovese Crime Family, pleaded guilty to an Information charging him with extortion. NIGRO and others used threats of violence and economic harm in an attempt to force the victim to rent a particular commercial property to NIGRO and others at a below-market price.

Both defendants were originally charged in Manhattan federal court in an Indictment (*United States v. Liborio S. Bellomo, et al.*, S1 06 Cr. 08 (LAK)) which charged 34 defendants -- including an Acting Boss and various members and associates of the Genovese Organized Crime Family of La Cosa Nostra -- with wide-ranging racketeering crimes and other offenses spanning more than a decade, including: murder, violent extortions of various individuals and businesses, labor racketeering, obstruction of justice, narcotics trafficking, money laundering, and firearms trafficking. The Indictment targeted factions of the Genovese Crime Family based in the Bronx, East Harlem, and Westchester. The charges were the result of a Federal investigation that began in 2003, and a related investigation by state authorities in Westchester County that began in 2005. To date, 27 defendants have pleaded guilty.

These two defendants will be sentenced by the Honorable LEWIS A. KAPLAN; sentencing dates have not been set. DELUCA faces a maximum sentence of 5 years' imprisonment and maximum fine of \$250,000. NIGRO faces a maximum sentence of 20 years' imprisonment and maximum fine of \$250,000.

Mr. GARCIA praised the efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the New York City Police Department, and the New York State Police in this investigation.

Assistant United States Attorneys MIRIAM E. ROCAH, JONATHAN S. KOLODNER and ERIC SNYDER are in charge of the prosecution.

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