



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
ELLEN DAVIS, CARLY SULLIVAN,
JERIKA RICHARDSON, EDELI RIVERA
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600**

**MANHATTAN U.S. ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES EXTRADITION
OF GENOVESE FAMILY SOLDIER FROM ITALY TO FACE
RACKETEERING CHARGES FOR HIS ALLEGED ROLE
IN TWO MURDERS AND OTHER CRIMES**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that EMILIO FUSCO was extradited from Italy to face racketeering and other charges in connection with his role as a made member of the Genovese Organized Crime Family. FUSCO arrived in New York Friday afternoon, and was arraigned in Manhattan federal court earlier today.

FUSCO was charged, along with co-defendants FELIX TRANGHESE, TY GEAS, FOTIOS GEAS, and ARTHUR NIGRO, in a superseding Indictment (the "Indictment") unsealed in July 2010. TRANGHESE pled guilty in January 2011, and NIGRO, FOTIOS GEAS and TY GEAS were convicted by a jury on April 1, 2011, of racketeering charges, multiple murder charges, and multiple extortion charges.

Manhattan U.S. Attorney PREET BHARARA stated: "Emilio Fusco will finally face the justice he deserves -- something that he never afforded his alleged victims."

According to the Indictment and testimony and evidence presented at the trial of FUSCO's co-defendants:

FUSCO was a made member of the Genovese Organized Crime Family, in Springfield, Massachusetts. In 2003, prior to being sentenced for an earlier racketeering conviction, FUSCO obtained a court document showing that Genovese Family Capo Adolfo Bruno had spoken with an FBI agent about FUSCO's status in the Genovese Family. Thereafter, Arthur Nigro, who was then an Acting Boss of the Genovese Family, gave the order to murder Bruno. FUSCO and others conspired to carry out the murder, and Bruno was killed on November 23, 2003.

Less than three weeks before Bruno's murder, FUSCO, along with another Genovese Family Soldier and two associates, murdered an individual named Gary Westerman to maintain and increase their position in the Genovese Organized Crime Family, and to prevent Westerman from providing information to law enforcement about crimes committed by members and associates of the Genovese Organized Crime Family.

* * *

FUSCO is charged with one count each of racketeering conspiracy, racketeering, conspiring to commit extortion, extortion, and interstate travel in aid of racketeering. If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence on each racketeering count of life in prison, a maximum sentence on each extortion count of 20 years in prison, and a maximum sentence on the interstate travel count of five years in prison.

A conference in the case is scheduled before U.S. District Judge P. KEVIN CASTEL on June 17, 2011, at 12:00 p.m.

Sentencing for NIGRO, FOTIOS GEAS, and TY GEAS is scheduled for July 15, 2011, at 11:15 a.m. TRANGHESE is scheduled to be sentenced on July 15, 2011, at 9:30 a.m.

Mr. BHARARA praised the efforts of the FBI's New York Field Office, the FBI's Springfield, Massachusetts, Resident Agency, and the Massachusetts State Police for their outstanding work in the ongoing investigation. He also thanked the United States Department of Justice Criminal Division's Office of International Affairs and the United States Marshals' Service for their involvement in the extradition process.

This case is being prosecuted by the Office's Organized Crime Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorneys MARK LANPHER, ELIE HONIG, and DANIEL GOLDMAN are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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