



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

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**COLOMBIAN KINGPIN FRANCISCO GONZALEZ URIBE SENTENCED
IN MANHATTAN FEDERAL COURT TO 30 YEARS IN PRISON**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that FRANCISCO GONZALEZ URIBE, a/k/a "Patron," a Colombia-based drug kingpin accused of trafficking in tons of cocaine and heroin, was sentenced to 30 years in prison by U.S. District Judge LEWIS A. KAPLAN. On June 23, 2010, GONZALEZ URIBE pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to import cocaine and heroin into the United States, and one count of conspiracy to distribute cocaine and heroin. GONZALEZ URIBE, designated by the U.S. Department of Justice as one of the world's most significant drug kingpins, was arrested in the Dominican Republic in 2009 and expelled to the United States to face U.S. charges.

Manhattan U.S. Attorney PREET BHARARA said: "In the international drug trafficking underworld, Gonzalez Uribe was almost peerless. Today's sentence should send a strong message to narcotics dealers around the world that if you try to smuggle drugs into our country, we will find you and prosecute you with the full force of our laws. We will continue to work with all of our law enforcement partners in the United States, Colombia, and elsewhere to bring traffickers like Gonzalez Uribe to justice here in the Southern District of New York."

According to the Indictment and other documents filed in Manhattan federal court, as well as statements made during GONZALEZ-URIBE's guilty plea proceeding:

From at least 2007 through 2009, GONZALEZ URIBE, 44, headed an organization that shipped thousands of kilograms of cocaine and heroin to various locations in Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, and other countries. The narcotics were then brought from these locations to the United States and various locations in Europe. Because of the expansive nature of GONZALEZ URIBE's drug-trafficking activities, he was designated a Consolidated Priority Organization Target ("CPOT") by the

Department of Justice, a list of the most dangerous and prolific narcotics traffickers in the world.

During two undercover operations in early 2009, with the cooperation and assistance of the governments of Colombia and the Dominican Republic, the DEA succeeded in securing from GONZALEZ URIBE's organization a large quantity of heroin and cocaine. GONZALEZ URIBE was intercepted on recorded telephone calls personally orchestrating the shipment of these narcotics to New York City. The cocaine and heroin which was seized by the DEA during these operations had an estimated wholesale value of approximately \$2 million. During the course of the investigation, GONZALEZ URIBE was intercepted arranging the movement of tons of cocaine through South America to the United States and other countries. GONZALEZ-URIBE was also intercepted attempting to purchase a number of large aircrafts, including a DC-8 jumbo jet, for the international transportation of large quantities of narcotics.

In addition to the prison sentence, Judge KAPLAN imposed a five year term of supervised release and a \$10,000 fine.

Mr. BHARARA praised the outstanding efforts of the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA"), including the DEA Caribbean Field Division, the DEA Bogota Country Office, the DEA New York Field Division, and all other cooperating law enforcement agencies. Mr. BHARARA also thanked the Government of the Dominican Republic, the Dominican National Control Directory, and the Dominican Armed Forces, and expressed his gratitude to the Government of Colombia and the Administrative Department of Security for their cooperation and assistance in the investigation and prosecution of GONZALEZ URIBE. He also thanked the U.S. Department of Justice Office of International Affairs.

The case is being handled by the Office's Terrorism and International Narcotics Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorneys RANDALL W. JACKSON and BENJAMIN A. NAFTALIS are in charge of the prosecution.

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