



# UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

## *Southern District of New York*

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<http://www.justice.gov/usao/nys>

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### **DOMINICAN DRUG TRAFFICKER SENTENCED IN MANHATTAN FEDERAL COURT TO 200 MONTHS IN PRISON**

*Defendant Conspired with Corrupt Longshoremen to Smuggle Cocaine through New York Harbor and Tampered with a Cooperating Witness*

Preet Bharara, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that OMAR ADONIS GUZMAN-MARTINEZ, a citizen of the Dominican Republic, was sentenced today to 200 months in prison for his participation in a drug trafficking operation that used corrupt longshoremen to smuggle more than 150 kilograms of cocaine from Ecuador into the United States, through New York Harbor. In late August 2010, GUZMAN-MARTINEZ was expelled from Venezuela and transported to the United States. He pled guilty in May 2011 to one count of conspiring to distribute narcotics and one count of witness tampering. GUZMAN-MARTINEZ was sentenced today in Manhattan federal court by U.S. District Judge Denise L. Cote.

Manhattan U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara: "Omar Guzman-Martinez tried to pollute our shores with dangerous narcotics and to corrupt our criminal justice system by tampering with a witness. The convictions of Guzman-Martinez and all of his cohorts should serve as a reminder that our efforts to stem the illegal flow of drugs into this country remain unflagging."

According to the Indictment and other documents filed in this and related cases:

In 2006, agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations (ICE HSI) and the Westchester Regional Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) initiated "Operation Dockside." The operation targeted a violent, international cocaine trafficking organization in which GUZMAN-MARTINEZ was a member and that had ties to Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, and the United States. With the assistance of corrupt longshoremen in both Guayaquil, Ecuador, and the New York Container Terminal ("NYCT") in Staten Island, traffickers smuggled approximately 550 kilograms of cocaine into the United States by commingling it with legitimate cargo shipments bound for New York from Ecuador.

After he was indicted in early 2008, GUZMAN-MARTINEZ evaded arrest in the Dominican Republic in the fall of 2008. After a year-and-a-half long pursuit, he was located and arrested in Venezuela and then transported to the Southern District of New York.

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In addition to his prison term, Judge Cote sentenced GUZMAN-MARTINEZ, 39, to five years of supervised release.

Fourteen defendants were arrested in connection with Operation Dockside, all of whom have pled guilty. During the course of the investigation, federal agents seized over 215 kilograms of cocaine and ordered more than \$1 million forfeited from the defendants. In addition, one defendant was ordered to forfeit his liquor store.

Mr. Bharara praised the investigative work of ICE HSI and the DEA. Mr. Bharara also thanked Interpol and the Department of Justice's Office of International Affairs for their assistance.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Nola B. Heller, Amie N. Ely, Brendan R. McGuire, and Arianna Berg are in charge of the prosecution, which is being handled by the Office's Narcotics Unit.

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