



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**BUREAU OF PRISONS EMPLOYEE INDICTED FOR LYING IN
CONNECTION WITH A FEDERAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today the indictment of Bureau of Prisons ("BOP") employee FRANCISCO FELIX for making false statements to federal agents in connection with a criminal investigation by the Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General ("DOJ-OIG"). FELIX is a maintenance worker supervisor at the Metropolitan Correctional Center ("MCC") in Manhattan.

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

In June 2008, DOJ-OIG agents of the interviewed a federal inmate at the MCC (the "Inmate"). Prior to the interview, the inmate had contacted BOP internal investigators to advise that he was solicited for a bribe by BOP employee JOSEPH FRANGIOSA. From June 2008 through September 2008, FRANGIOSA accepted multiple bribe payments from an undercover law enforcement officer posing as the Inmate's relative, in exchange for allowing the inmate to make unmonitored telephone calls. (It is a violation of BOP rules and regulations to permit inmates to make unmonitored telephone calls.) FRANGIOSA was subsequently indicted in the Southern District of New York for soliciting bribes in connection with the performance of his official duties and has pleaded guilty.

Beginning in July 2008, FRANGIOSA stopped working within the MCC because he was out on medical leave. However, MCC telephone records and recorded calls showed that the Inmate was permitted to make an unmonitored telephone call from a basement room at the MCC and, according to the Inmate, FELIX was the person who accompanied and allowed him to do so. Telephone service provider records showed frequent calls between FELIX and FRANGIOSA in the days leading up to the unmonitored call, and MCC surveillance video showed FELIX in the elevator bank by the

Inmate's housing unit shortly before the unmonitored call was placed.

In February 2009, federal law enforcement officials interviewed FELIX in connection with this investigation. In a sworn statement, FELIX lied and said that, not only did he never allow any inmate to make unmonitored phone calls, he did not know the Inmate.

FELIX, 41, of Queens, New York, is charged with one count of making false statements to a federal agency in connection with a criminal investigation, which carries a maximum sentence of 5 years in prison.

FELIX is scheduled to be arraigned by United States District Judge LEWIS A. KAPLAN on October 27, 2009, at 2:30 p.m.

Mr. BHARARA praised the work of the DOJ-OIG and the BOP.

This case is being prosecuted by the Office's Public Corruption Unit. Assistant United States Attorneys RUA KELLY and RACHEL KOVNER are in charge of the prosecution.

The charge contained in the Indictment is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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