



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 5, 2008**

**CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
YUSILL SCRIBNER
REBEKAH CARMICHAEL
JANICE OH
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600**

**BANK TELLER PLEADS GUILTY TO BANK FRAUD
AND OTHER OFFENSES IN CONNECTION WITH ROBBERIES
COMMITTED BY FORMER NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that CHRISTINA DASRATH, pleaded guilty today before United States District Judge LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN to conspiring to defraud a Manhattan bank (the "Bank"), bank larceny, and making false statements to investigators. According to the Indictment and Complaints previously filed in Manhattan federal court:

Between June 2007 and April 2008, CHRISTIAN TORRES -- who was during that time serving as a New York City Police Officer -- and DASRATH, a teller at a branch of the Bank, conspired to defraud the Bank by falsely creating the impression that an unknown man had robbed DASRATH at her teller station, when in fact TORRES and DASRATH were acting in concert to take the money. On June 8, 2007, after DASRATH provided TORRES with information about the Bank's security procedures, TORRES entered the Bank, located at 57 Avenue A, New York, New York, and handed DASRATH a note directing her to "empty both drawers," and threatening to "start shooting." DASRATH then handed TORRES \$16,305 from her teller drawer. TORRES later gave DASRATH a portion of the stolen money.

The Indictment also charges that after each of the robberies, on June 8, 2007, and November 16, 2007, DASRATH lied to law enforcement officials investigating the robberies and concealed her relationship with TORRES.

DASRATH 20, of the Bronx, New York pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud, bank larceny, and making false statements to investigators. She faces a maximum prison term of 45 years and is scheduled to be sentenced on January 9, 2009.

TORRES pleaded guilty on June 16, 2008 in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania to bank robbery and firearms offenses in connection with an April 10, 2008 robbery of a bank in Muhlenberg, Pennsylvania. He is scheduled to be sentenced in that court on September 10, 2008. This Office is coordinating with federal prosecutors in Pennsylvania to bring TORRES to New York to face the charges brought against him in the Indictment.

Mr. GARCIA praised the outstanding investigative work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the New York City Police Department.

This case is being handled by the Office's Public Corruption Unit. Assistant United States Attorney DANIEL STEIN is in charge of the prosecution.

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

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