



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney*

*Eastern District of Pennsylvania*

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September 11, 2007

**PRESS RELEASE**

United States Attorney Patrick Meehan and Berks County District Attorney Mark Baldwin today announced the filing of an indictment<sup>1</sup> against Jose Manuel Arango, a/k/a “Colombia,” him with possession with the intent to distribute approximately 3 kilograms of heroin, possession with the intent to distribute approximately 3 kilograms of heroin within 1000 feet of a school, possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking offense, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The indictment alleges that on August 1, 2007, Arango possessed approximately 3 kilograms of heroin and a loaded .40 caliber Glock, semi-automatic handgun.

This indictment is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a joint initiative by the United States Attorney’s Office, the Berks County District Attorney's Office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Reading Police Department, the Berks County Sheriff’s Department, and other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to identify and prosecute firearms offenders in federal court, where the defendants are likely to receive a substantial sentence upon conviction.

Defendant Arango faces a total possible maximum sentence of life imprisonment, 15 years mandatory minimum imprisonment, 10 years up to lifetime supervised release, an \$8,500,000 fine and a \$300 special assessment.

**INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANT**

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR DATE OF BIRTH
JOSE MANUEL ARANGO	READING, PA	30

The case has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Francis C. Barbieri, Jr.

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<sup>1</sup> An indictment is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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