



Department of Justice

Office of the United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 20, 2010
WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/WIW

CONTACT: PAUL W. CONNELL
PHONE: (608) 264-5158
TTY: (608) 264-5006

MADISON MAN SENTENCED TO 12 YEARS FOR DRUG & GUN CRIMES

Madison, Wis. - Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Ernesto Abeyta, 34, Madison, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 12 years in prison on drug and firearms charges.

Beginning in May 2009, the Drug Enforcement Administration utilized an informant to purchase cocaine from Abeyta. On October 20, 2009, law enforcement officers executed a search warrant at Abeyta's residence on Lone Oak Lane, Madison, and received consent to search a condominium in Middleton where officers believed that Abeyta was hiding cocaine.

Officers recovered approximately one kilogram of cocaine and a handgun at the condominium and seized approximately 50 grams of cocaine, an assault rifle, and other evidence indicating that Abeyta was engaged in a large-scale drug operation at his residence.

On December 1, 2009, Abeyta pled guilty to one count of possessing cocaine with intent to distribute and one count of using a firearm in furtherance of that drug offense.

At sentencing, Judge Crabb noted Abeyta's appalling criminal history involving several cases where he battered his wife and stated that there are people suffering all over the community because of his choice to become a drug dealer.

The charges against Abeyta were the result of an investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Dane County Narcotics and Gang Task Force, and Madison Police Department. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

###