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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 13, 2011 http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/wvs/ CONTACT: Melvin Smith 800-659-8726*(304)345-2200 Melvin.Smith@usdoj.gov

THREE SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR SELLING DRUGS IN THE CHARLESTON AREA

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Three people were sentenced to prison yesterday for selling cocaine base in the Charleston area. Delcoria Carter, 40, Levi Carter, 21, and Danny Fortune, 30, all of Charleston, were sentenced by United States District Judge John T. Copenhaver, Jr. Delcoria Carter was sentenced to eight years in prison followed by six years of supervised released for her role in the drug trafficking ring. Carter entered her guilty plea on September 28, 2010, admitting she distributed cocaine base. Levi Carter was sentenced to a year and one day in prison, followed by a three-year term of supervised release, and Danny Fortune received a sentence of 70 months in prison and a three-year term of supervised release. Levi Carter and Fortune both previously pleaded guilty on September 30, 2009, admitting they distributed quantities of crack to confidential informants.

The convictions stem from an investigation conducted by the Charleston Police Department's Special Enforcement Unit. A federal grand jury returned an eight-count indictment against the trio in May 2010. According to court documents, on October 14, 2009, Delcoria Carter sold a quantity of cocaine base to a confidential informant working with the Charleston Police Department. An investigation revealed that on October 15, 2009, Delcoria Carter aided and abetted Levi Carter with distributing a quantity of cocaine base to a confidential informant. As part of her plea agreement, Delcoria Carter admitted that she informed the confidential informant to go to the Arby's restaurant on the Westside of Charleston to meet with Levi Carter to complete the deal. It was further revealed that Delcoria Carter made the confidential informant aware that she had given Levi Carter all of her cocaine base earlier that day to sell to the informant.

As stipulated in his plea agreement, Danny Fortune admitted he sold a quantity of cocaine base on numerous occasions to a confidential informant working with the Charleston Police Department. On April 21, 2009, Fortune sold a quantity of cocaine base to a confidential informant in Charleston. Fortune also admitted that he sold a quantity of cocaine base on two different occasions on May 6, 2009, to a confidential informant. The controlled buys also took place in Charleston. Court documents further revealed that Fortune sold a quantity of cocaine base to a confidential informant on May 8, 2009 and again on May 27, 2009.

The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Monica Dillon.