



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
District of Maryland

Rod J. Rosenstein
United States Attorney

Vickie E. LeDuc
Public Information Officer

36 South Charles Street
Fourth Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

410-209-4800
TTY/TDD: 410-962-4462
410-209-4885
FAX 410-962-3091
Vickie.LeDuc@usdoj.gov

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**Contact AUSA VICKIE E. LEDUC or
MARCIA MURPHY at 410-209-4885**

MS-13 MEMBER PLEADS GUILTY TO RACKETEERING CONSPIRACY

Scheduled to be a Defendant in Trial Beginning Tuesday in Greenbelt

Greenbelt, Maryland - Lisbeth Delcid, also known as "Lil Truca," or "Lil Trucha," age 22, of Woodbridge, Virginia, pleaded guilty today to conspiracy to conduct and participate in racketeering enterprise activities of an MS-13 gang, announced United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein.

According to the statement of facts provided to the court as part of the plea agreement, La Mara Salvatrucha, also known as the MS-13 gang (hereafter "MS-13"), is a gang composed primarily of immigrants or descendants of immigrants from El Salvador, with members operating throughout Prince George's County and Montgomery County, Maryland, and elsewhere. MS-13 is a national and international criminal organization with approximately 10,000 members.

MS-13 is organized in "cliques," including, but not limited to, the Sailors Locos Salvatruchos Westside ("SLSW" or "Sailors"), the Teclas Locos Salvatruchos ("TLS"), and the Langley Park Salvatruchos ("LPS"). Delcid was a member of the Sailors clique. The MS-13 cliques work together cooperatively to commit acts of violence.

Beginning at least in 2003 and continuing through April 5, 2006, Delcid attended various MS-13 meetings and paid dues to the gang. Delcid began associating with MS-13 while attending high school. Delcid gave money to the gang to support other gang members and Sailors clique members who were incarcerated for gang violence.

In January 2006, Delcid admitted to an ATF agent and a Prince George's Police detective that she had a relationship with a leader for the TLS clique. After the leader was incarcerated in 2005, Delcid maintained regular contact with him, including depositing money in his commissary account at the jail, and receiving letters from him regarding gang activities, as well as letters sent to her for the express purpose of redistributing information to TLS clique members. Delcid was aware that MS-13 members planned to kill "chavalas," or rival gang members. Delcid's repeated assistance in communicating instructions to TLS members furthered the objectives of MS-13, including locating, attacking and killing rival gang members.

Delcid faces a maximum sentence of life in prison. U.S. District Judge Deborah K. Chasanow has scheduled sentencing for June 18, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. Delcid had been on bond, but after entry of the guilty plea she was placed in custody.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein praised the investigative work performed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Prince George's County Police Department; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; the Montgomery County Police Department; the Howard County Police Department; the Maryland National Capital Park Police; the Maryland State Police and the Fairfax County, Virginia Police Department. Mr. Rosenstein thanked Assistant U.S. Attorneys James M. Trusty and Chan Park, and Trial Attorney David Jaffe, a prosecutor for the Justice Department's Gang Squad, who are prosecuting the case.