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## **DRUG TRAFFICKERS FROM SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT**

**LAKE CHARLES, LA . . .** United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that **RODOLFO ANGEL PASILLAS, a/k/a Rudy Pasillas, JOSE ANGEL PASILLAS, a/k/a Joe Pasillas, CARLOS FABIAN GUTIERREZ,** and **KARLA ELIZA RAMIREZ,** all of San Antonio, Texas, were sentenced in U. S. District Court by United States District Judge Patricia Minaldi for drug trafficking and firearms charges.

RODOLFO PASILLAS, JOSE PASILLAS, CARLOS GUTIERREZ and KARLA RAMIREZ were indicted in April 2008 for conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute cocaine and possession with intent to distribute cocaine. The indictment also charged RODOLFO ANGEL PASILLAS AND JOSE ANGEL PASILLAS with possession of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime.

The investigation into the PASILLAS brothers drug trafficking activities began when law enforcement officials received information that the two brothers were smuggling cocaine into the United States from Mexico. RODOLFO and JOSE PASILLAS arranged a transaction for the sale of five kilograms of cocaine to take place at the Isle of Capri Casino in Lake Charles, La. Co-defendants CARLOS GUTIERREZ and KARLA RAMIREZ proceeded to that location with concealed cocaine strapped to their abdomens for the purpose of completing the transaction. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents seized the suspected

cocaine and arrested GUTIERREZ and RAMIREZ. At sentencing, it was also revealed that all four defendants admitted to law enforcement officers during debriefing, to distributing approximately 10 kilograms of cocaine prior to this incident.

The facts surrounding the defendants sentenced today are as follows:

**RODOLFO ANGEL PASILLAS**, a/k/a Rudy Pasillas, age 26, of San Antonio, Texas, pled guilty in February 2009 to possession with intent to distribute cocaine and possession of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime. **RODOLFO ANGEL PASILLAS was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment and a term of five years supervised release following confinement.**

**JOSE ANGEL PASILLAS**, a/k/a Joe Pasillas, age 23, of San Antonio, Texas, pled guilty in May 2009 to possession with intent to distribute cocaine. **JOSE ANGEL PASILLAS was sentenced to 11.25 years imprisonment and a term of five years supervised release following confinement.**

**CARLOS FABIAN GUTIERREZ**, age 40, of Anahuac, Texas, pled guilty in February 2009 to possession with intent to distribute cocaine. **GUTIERREZ was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment and a term of five years supervised release following confinement.**

**KARLA ELIZA RAMIREZ**, age 28, of Laredo, Texas, pled guilty in February 2009 to possession with intent to distribute cocaine. **RAMIREZ was sentenced to 60 days imprisonment and a term of five years supervised release following confinement.**

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute.

United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission are only used as guidelines by the judge in determining the appropriate sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case was investigated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Myers P. Namie and Stephanie A. Finley.

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