

Department of Justice

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LAW ENFORCEMENT SEIZES MORE THAN EIGHT POUNDS OF COCAINE

BUFFALO, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today the separate arrests of Angelo Vazquez-Rodriguez, of Lackawanna, N.Y., and Jose Ramon Ramos, of Buffalo, N.Y., for attempting to possess with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine. Each charge carries a mandatory minimum penalty of five years in prison and a maximum of 40 years, a fine of \$5,000,000 or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John P. Alsup, who is handling both cases, stated that according to Criminal Complaints, defendants Vazquez-Rodriguez and Ramon Ramos were the intended recipients of multiple kilograms of cocaine shipped to them from Puerto Rico. The cocaine in both shipments was intercepted by law enforcement prior to delivery, refilled with sham material and allowed to be sent on to the defendants immediately prior to their arrests.

On April 13, 2012, Vazquez-Rodriguez was arrested after he accepted delivery of a mail package, which he believed contained approximately two kilograms of cocaine. In the evening hours of April 19, 2012, Ramon Ramos was arrested after he picked up a U.S. mail package that he believed contained approximately 2.5 kilograms of cocaine.

“This Office, along with our law enforcement partners, is pleased to report to the community that over eight pounds of cocaine has been interdicted before hitting the streets of our community,” said U.S. Attorney Hochul. “This shows the ability of law enforcement to successfully identify and prosecute those who traffic in extremely large amounts of narcotics.”

The arrests are the culmination of an investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, under the direction of Inspector-in-Charge Robert Bethel and the Drug

Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Wilbert L. Plummer, Acting Special Agent in Charge, New York Field Division.

The fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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