

# Department of Justice

United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr.  
Western District of New York

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## **EIGHT DEFENDANTS INDICTED ON NARCOTICS AND FIREARMS OFFENSES; ADDITIONAL DEFENDANT CHARGED**

ROCHESTER, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that a federal grand jury has returned a 15 count Second Superseding Indictment charging eight defendants with a variety of narcotics and firearms offenses related to a long-term and violent narcotics trafficking ring in the city of Rochester headed by James Kendrick. Six of those defendants are also charged with committing a murder in 1998, while two of the defendants are accused of committing a second murder in 1999.

A Superseding Indictment was filed in March 2011 against 11 defendants charging similar crimes. Four of the original 11 defendants have since been convicted and seven remain. The Second Superseding Indictment adds an eighth defendant, Matilda Delgado, 39, and three additional narcotics charges.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Everardo A. Rodriguez, who is handling the case, stated that Count One of the Second Superseding Indictment alleges a conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute five or more kilograms of cocaine, 280 or more grams of cocaine base, one kilogram or more of heroin and a quantity of marijuana, in the time period of 1993, through and including March 2011. The Second Superseding Indictment charges the following defendants with this offense: James Kendrick, a/ka "JD," 37; Pablo Plaza, a/k/a "Paul," 39; Pablo Plaza, a/k/a "Plaza," 36; Janine Plaza-Pierce, 58; Edwin Negrón, a/k/a "E," 35; Angelo Cruz, a/k/a "Kubiak," 35; Angelo Ocasio, 37; and Matilda Delgado, 39. The narcotics charge carries a mandatory minimum term of 10 years in prison, a maximum term of life and a \$4,000,000 fine.

The Second Superseding Indictment maintains the charge in the prior indictment against defendants Kendrick, Pablo Plaza, a/k/a "Paul," Pablo Plaza, a/k/a "Plaza," Janine Plaza-Pierce; Edwin Negrón, and Angelo Cruz, a/k/a "Kubiak," for murdering Francisco

Santos, a/k/a “Cisco” of Rochester, New York, on or about October 1998. Francisco Santos’ body was found in May 1999 buried on the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation in Erie County.

The Second Superseding Indictment also maintains the charge in the prior Indictment against Kendrick and Pablo Plaza, a/k/a “Plaza,” for murdering their cousin Ryan Cooper, a/k/a “Chewey” of Rochester, New York between May and July 1999. Cooper’s body has not been found by police.

The two federal murder counts are subject to the death penalty. The Justice Department has not yet decided whether to seek the death penalty against any of the defendants charged with the murders. The decision will be made by the Attorney General of the United States after careful deliberation of all of the proof and circumstances in the case.

The Superseding Indictment additionally charges all defendants with one or more counts of unlawfully possessing and/or discharging firearms in furtherance of drug trafficking crimes. The gun charges carry a mandatory minimum of up to 25 years, a maximum of life and a \$250,000 fine.

In remaining counts, defendant Kendrick is charged with engaging in a Continuing Criminal Enterprise, and various defendants are charged with possessing and attempting to possess heroin, and maintaining premises for the purpose of manufacturing and distributing heroin.

“The prosecution of violent gangs continues to be a priority of this Office,” said U.S. Attorney Hochul. “Members of the public are encouraged to continue to contact our Office with any and all information which can help remove these predators from our streets.”

This Indictment is based on a joint investigation consisting of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, under the direction Joseph Anarumo, Special Agent in Charge of the New York Field Division, the Rochester Police Department, Violent Crime Team/Firearms Suppression Unit, under the direction of Chief James Shepard.

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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