

Department of Justice

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

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CONTACT: BARBARA BURNS
PHONE: (716) 843-5817
FAX: (716) 551-3051

ROCHESTER MAN SENTENCED ON DRUG CHARGES

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Waldemar Gonzalez, a/k/a Vic, 36, of Rochester, N.Y., who was a fugitive for over 18 months after being convicted of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and distribution of five kilograms or more of cocaine, was sentenced to 21 years in prison and 10 years supervised release by U.S. District Court Judge Charles J. Siragusa.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert A. Marangola, who handled the case, stated that between January 2005 and March 2010, the defendant conspired with 10 others to possess and distribute powder and crack cocaine in the Rochester area. This Rochester-based violent cocaine trafficking organization was involved in arranging the interstate shipment of multi-kilogram quantities of cocaine from Florida to Rochester, which was broken down and packaged into smaller quantities for resale. Firearms were carried and used to facilitate the cocaine trafficking, and to facilitate the third party purchases of cocaine and crack cocaine.

Gonzalez was arrested in March 2010, and, after pleading guilty, was released pending sentencing on April 28, 2010. On June 7, 2010, Gonzalez fled Rochester, and was a fugitive from justice until his capture by the United States Marshals Service on January 11, 2012, in the Bronx, New York. He is the last of the 10 charged defendants to be sentenced.

The sentencing is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives under the direction of Scott Heagney, Resident Agent in Charge, the Rochester Police under the direction of Chief James Sheppard, the Monroe County District Attorney's Office and the United States Marshals Service, under the direction of U. S. Marshal Charles Salina.

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