

# Department of Justice

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

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## **ROCHESTER MAN SENTENCED ON DRUG CHARGES**

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Alex Torres, 29, formerly of Rochester, N.Y., who was convicted of drug conspiracy, possession of a firearm in furtherance of drug trafficking, attempted extortion by kidnapping and robbery, and money laundering conspiracy, was sentenced to 26 years in prison by U.S. District Judge Charles J. Siragusa.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jennifer M. Noto, who handled the case, stated that the defendant participated in a large, armed narcotics trafficking organization responsible for the receipt and distribution of hundreds of kilograms of cocaine in the Rochester area between January 2007 and October 2008. Torres was one of more than 30 related defendants charged with federal crimes involving their participation in this armed drug conspiracy that sent and received packages of cocaine via the U.S. Mail from Puerto Rico to Rochester. Proceeds from the drug sales were sent back to Puerto Rico to purchase more cocaine.

Torres also admitted involvement in an attempted extortion that involved the kidnapping, robbery and beating of an elderly man in an attempt to recover stolen kilograms of cocaine.

To date, 32 defendants have entered guilty pleas in connection with this case. One defendant remains and is due back in Court for further proceedings in early January 2012.

“Today’s sentence ensures that a dangerous defendant will be off the streets of our community for a very long time,” said U.S. Attorney Hochul. “Our Office, together with all of our law enforcement partners, are committed to targeting and prosecuting criminal organizations which bring violence and dangerous narcotics to this District.”

This sentencing is the culmination of a multi-agency investigation under the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HITA) and Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) initiatives. Federal and State law enforcement agencies, including Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearm and Explosives, under the direction of Scott Heagney, Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Timothy Kernan, Postal Inspectors of the United States Postal Inspection Service, under the direction of Raymond Williams and officers from the

Greater Rochester Area Narcotics Enforcement Team, under the direction of Lt. Joseph Morabito worked in concert with the United States Attorney's Office in the year long investigation.

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