



Department of Justice

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District of Massachusetts

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SIXTY-SIX GANG MEMBERS FACING FEDERAL RICO, FIREARM AND DRUG TRAFFICKING CHARGES *Over seventy firearms recovered during course of investigation*

BOSTON – Sixty-six alleged gang members from the Greater Boston area have been charged with federal and state firearm and drug charges, including federal RICO conspiracy charges related to an attempted murder. It is alleged that these individuals were responsible for fueling a gun and drug pipeline across a number of cities and towns in eastern Massachusetts. During the course of the investigation, over 70 firearms were seized.

This morning, more than 400 federal, state and local law enforcement officers carried out the arrests of numerous leaders, members, and associates of the 18th Street Gang, the East Side Money Gang and the Boylston Gang. These individuals operated primarily in East Boston, Chelsea, Brockton, Malden, Revere and Everett. Additional individuals were taken into custody on federal immigration violations.

In 2014, a federal investigation identified a network of street gangs which had created alliances resulting in the trafficking of weapons and drugs throughout the state, and generated violence against rival gang members. The investigation also revealed significant cocaine, crack, and heroin dealing committed by gang members, many of which were supplied through a Brockton-based drug network.

According to court documents, the 18th Street Gang is a multi-national gang that operates throughout the United States and Central America, and whose members in the Boston area have had significant access to firearms in Boston and Chelsea. Over a one year period, investigators seized approximately 37 firearms from 18th Street Gang members alone, including 29 hand guns, three assault rifles, and five sawed-off shotguns, many of which had the serial numbers obliterated.

In total, 53 defendants have been charged in federal court, three of whom were previously arrested. Thirteen defendants have been charged by the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office in state court. Over two dozen individuals have been detained for administrative deportations.

The charge of RICO conspiracy provides a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. Depending on the drug quantity, the drug trafficking conspiracy and distribution charges provide a sentence of 20 years, 40 years or a

lifetime in prison; a minimum of three, four or five years of supervised release; and a fine of \$1 million, \$5 million or \$10 million. The charge of conspiracy to engage in the business of dealing in firearms without a license provides a sentence of up to five years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. The charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm or an alien in possession of a firearm and ammunition provides a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. Actual sentences for federal crimes are typically less than the maximum penalties. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

United States Attorney Carmen M. Ortiz; Daniel J. Kumor, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, Boston Field Division; Michael J. Ferguson, Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration, New England Field Division; Matthew Etre, Special Agent in Charge of the Homeland Security Investigations in Boston; John Gibbons, U.S. Marshal of the District of Massachusetts; Maura Healey, Attorney General of Massachusetts; Colonel Richard D. McKeon, Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police; Boston Police Commissioner William Evans; Chelsea Police Chief Brian Kyes; and Brockton Police Chief John Crowley, made the announcement today. The U.S. Attorney's Office also acknowledges the assistance of the Suffolk and Middlesex County Sheriff Departments and the Malden, Revere and Everett Police Departments.

The details contained in the charging documents are allegations. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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Addendum A

The following defendants were arrested today and charged in federal court:

1. Angel Mejia Zelaya, a/k/a “Stackz,” 21, of Chelsea
2. Brandon Baez, a/k/a “Big Baby,” 18, of Chelsea
3. Roberto Christian Jimenez-Heyer, a/k/a “Forty,” 19, of Chelsea
4. Josue Rodriguez, a/k/a “SB,” a/k/a “Superbad,” 19, of Chelsea
5. Wilfredo Delacruz, 19, of Lynn
6. Henry Del-Rio, a/k/a “Junior,” 19, of Chelsea
7. Elyhas Diaz, a/k/a “Boi-Boi,” 19, of Chelsea
8. Anna Garcia a/k/a “Janice,” a/k/a “J,” 28, of Chelsea
9. Cristian Gonzalez, a/k/a “Chee,” 23
10. Jessika Heyer, 40, of Chelsea
11. Jerry Leiva, a/k/a “Fetti,” 19, of Chelsea
12. Jose Perez, 19, of Lynn
13. Emmitt Simpkins, a/k/a “Easy,” 21, of Chelsea
14. Robert Lewis, 30, of Lynn
15. Victor Florentino, 21, of Dorchester
16. Alejandro Ojeda, a/k/a “Progress,” 24, of Boston
17. Jonathan Pena, 22, of East Boston
18. Jose Muniz, a/k/a “Gunda,” 28, of Chelsea
19. Oscar Oliva, a/k/a “Droopy,” 25, of East Boston
20. Ralph Bonano, 22, of East Boston
21. Jamir Hernandez, 22, of Revere
22. Lester Martinez, a/k/a “Chapin,” 33, of East Boston
23. Jose Pineda Ramirez, a/k/a “Lil Joker,” 23, of East Boston
24. Dennis Pleites Ramos, 22, of Chelsea
25. Jose Ramos Rivera, a/k/a “Pumba,” 25, of Chelsea
26. Luis Serrano, a/k/a “Catracho,” a/k/a “Cheeky,” 26, of East Boston
27. Brian Segura, 25, of Chelsea
28. Cristian Velasquez, a/k/a “Bombio,” 23
29. Omar Villegas, a/k/a “Negrito,” 21, of Chelsea
30. Jassel Castillo, a/k/a “Shells,” 21, of Boston
31. Jose Herrera, 28, of Quincy
32. Victor Pena, 46, of Brockton
33. Michael Romero, a/k/a “Little Mikey,” 29, of East Boston
34. Antonio Sosa, 29, of Brockton
35. Anthony Terrones, a/k/a “Squirrel,” 30, of Jamaica Plain
36. Alfidis Victorino, a/k/a “Junior,” 21, of Hyde Park
37. Rosnil Ortiz, a/k/a “Rico,” 23, of Roslindale
38. Juan Pena, a/k/a “JJ Lavoie,” 24, of Roxbury
39. Luis Rivera, a/k/a “Fat Louie,” 33 of Brockton
40. Kenneth Burke, 26, of Brockton
41. Kevin Davis, a/k/a “Flizzo,” 32, of Brockton

42. Vaughn Lewis, 36, of Brockton
43. Mannie Myers, 37, of Brockton
44. Brian Price, 34, of Brockton
45. Curtis Silva, a/k/a "Piff," 29, of Brockton
46. Manuel Martinez, a/k/a "Manny," 28, of East Boston
47. Jehail Hector, 19, of East Boston
48. James Warner, 29, of East Boston
49. Moises Casado a/k/a "Moi," 20, of Chelsea
50. Santo Yera

The following federal defendants were previously in custody:

1. Oswaldo Sousa
2. Mark Leaston
3. Dejahn Harrison

Addendum B

The following defendants were arrested today are charged in state court:

1. Wilmer Reyes, 23
2. Joseph Lorenzo, 29
3. Aniber Marquez, 21
4. Virginia Lebron, 35
5. Miguel Lorenzo, 26
6. Edward Lorenzo, 28
7. Santuce Yunisleydi, 31
8. Mouad Nessassi, 18
9. Linton Artica, 39
10. Angel Prats-Diaz, 18
11. Jery Hernandez
12. Jonathan Hernandez
13. To be named