



Seventeen Charged in Drug Conspiracy, Accused of Distributing Cocaine in Washington, DC Area

McNabb Associates, P.C. (Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 8:45 AM August 10, 2011

The U.S. Attorney's Office District of Columbia on August 9, 2011 released the following:

“WASHINGTON – Fifteen individuals have been arrested in connection with a three-year investigation into drug trafficking in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. At the time of the arrests, law enforcement officers seized illegal narcotics, six firearms, four vehicles, and more than \$600,000 in cash. The arrests follow the return of a federal indictment charging 17 individuals with conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute cocaine, crack cocaine, and marijuana.

The arrests, indictments, and seizures were announced today by U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr., James W. McJunkin, Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI's Washington Field Office, and Cathy L. Lanier, Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD).

The defendants were indicted on Thursday, August 4, 2011 on charges of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute cocaine, crack cocaine, and marijuana. The indictment also includes a forfeiture allegation seeking all proceeds derived from and assets used to commit the alleged crimes. If convicted, the defendants face a minimum of ten years in custody and a maximum of life in prison.

The seventeen defendants charged include Espey Brown, Jr., 37, of Washington, D.C.; Keith Gregory Gaston, 39, of Silver Spring, MD; Angela Denise Peoples, 40, of Washington, D.C.; Eugene Edward Gadson, 38, of Washington, D.C.; Derrick Anthony Harris, 37, of Washington, D.C.; Laura Ann Cooper, 51, of Washington, D.C.; Gregory Tuckson, 55, of Washington, D.C.; Harry Terrell, Jr., 68, of Washington, D.C.; Thomas Kearney, Jr., 53, of Washington, D.C.; Gregory Martin, 55, of Washington, D.C.;

David Emanuel Kyle, 41, of Camp Springs, MD; Tyrone Marcel Smith, 42, of Accokeek, MD; Joseph Garvin Young, 35, of Lanham, MD; Anthony Andre Carter, 32, of Fort Washington, MD; Walter Lybrant Hayman, 47, of Glenn Dale, MD; Marcus Alfred Gurley, 31, of Glenn Dale, MD; and Eric Michael Woods, 40, of Washington, D.C.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of criminal law and is not evidence of guilt. Every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.

Following the return of the indictment, law enforcement officers executed a series of arrest and search warrants in the District of Columbia and Maryland during the early morning hours of August 9, 2011, confiscating approximately one-half kilogram of cocaine, one-quarter kilogram of crack cocaine, and one pound of marijuana. In addition, the officers seized four vehicles, more than \$600,000 in cash, and six firearms, including two machine pistols.

“These arrests and seizures are the result of a concerted, relentless campaign to disrupt and dismantle the networks that fuel drug addiction in our city,” said U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. “By removing these narcotics and guns from our neighborhoods, we have made the District of Columbia a safer place.”

“Today's arrests show the hard work and determination of agents and detectives from FBI, MPD, Prince George's County Police Department and the U.S. Marshals Service and U.S. Park Police who partner together to rid our streets of these alleged drug networks,” said Assistant Director in Charge McJunkin.

“Because of our continued focus in the Shaw community, we have seen a dramatic reduction in violent crime,” said Chief Lanier. “These arrests are an example of the efforts of law enforcement working together to make our communities safer.”

The prosecution grew out of three years

of investigative activities by a long-term FBI/MPD alliance called the Safe Streets Task Force. The Safe Streets Initiative involves more than 150 Safe Streets Task Forces around the country that combat street gangs by combining federal, state and local police resources. The task forces, which began in 1992 in Los Angeles and the District of Columbia, address gang activity including drug-related crimes. Sharing resources, manpower and intelligence allows federal prosecutors to focus on securing the maximum sentences and penalties for gang members found guilty. By working through a Task Force, investigators can focus on the entire criminal enterprise, instead of the prosecution of individual gang members.

In announcing the indictments, U.S. Attorney Machen, Assistant Director McJunkin and Chief Lanier commended the work of the FBI and MPD members of the task force who investigated the case. They also thanked the U.S. Marshals Service, the U.S. Park Police, the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland, and the Prince George's County Police Department, all of which provided assistance. Finally, they cited the efforts of those who worked on the case from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, including Assistant U.S. Attorneys Kenneth F. Whitted, Seth Adam Meinero, and Barry Wiegand.”

To find additional federal criminal news, please read [Federal Criminal Defense Daily](#).

Douglas McNabb and other members of the U.S. law firm practice and write extensively on matters involving Federal Criminal Defense, INTERPOL Red Notice Removal, International Extradition and OFAC SDN List Removal.

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U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York Charges 65 Yonkers Gang Members, Associates, and Others with Narcotics and Firearms Offenses

McNabb Associates, P.C. (Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 9:35 AM August 10, 2011

The U.S. Attorney's Office Southern District of New York on August 9, 2011 released the following:

“Three Defendants Also Charged with Murder of Rival Gang Member

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York; **JANICE K. FEDARCYK**, the Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”); and **EDMUND HARTNETT**, Police Commissioner of the City of Yonkers, announced today the unsealing of five separate indictments charging a total of 65 defendants with a series of federal crimes, including murder, narcotics distribution, and firearms possession in Yonkers, New York. Fifty-nine of the defendants are members or associates of either the Elm Street Wolves or the Cliff Street Gangsters—two street-gangs based in Yonkers, New York.

U.S. Attorney **PREET BHARARA** stated: “The federal charges unsealed today should make it crystal clear that if you join a gang or deal drugs or engage in violence in Yonkers, you are facing federal time now. Today’s actions do not reflect any new law enforcement commitment—rather, they reflect a longstanding and deeply held belief that every community in the Southern District of New York should be safe and free from the poison of drugs, gangs, and violence. We who police the streets and prosecute criminals have no more important duty.”

FBI Assistant Director in Charge **JANICE K. FEDARCYK** stated: “The Elm Street Wolves and Cliff Street Gangsters viciously defended their drug territories, at times aligning with each other against rival dealers, outsiders, and non-members. They retaliated against anyone who dared to encroach on their territory, and they brought murder, mayhem, and fear to our communities. We are committed to eliminating the criminal enterprises that peddle poison and arm their sales force with guns. Whether you live in Yonkers or Scarsdale, Mt. Vernon or Mt. Kisco, you have a right to safety and security in your neighborhood.”

Yonkers Police Commissioner **EDMUND HARTNETT** stated: “The issue of gangs and gang-related violence is not a local or regional matter. It’s a national problem. While law enforcement must continue its efforts in the area of gang prevention,

joint investigations such as this which disrupt and dismantle gangs from top to bottom are a very effective tool. This case will have a positive impact on this neighborhood; an immediate visible and tangible result will be evident. On behalf of the Mayor and the people of the City of Yonkers, we extend our gratitude to the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York and to the FBI New York Office for their support, cooperation, and collaboration in this investigation.”

According to the indictments unsealed today in White Plains federal court:

A 21-count indictment, *United States v. Steven Knowles et. al.*, charges 47 members and associates of the Elm Street Wolves street gang with multiple counts related to the distribution of crack cocaine, as well as firearm offenses. The Elm Street Wolves are a drug trafficking organization whose members have sold crack cocaine in the vicinity of Elm and Oak streets in Yonkers, New York, since at least 2000. Members and associates of the Elm Street Wolves worked together to ensure that they profited from the gang’s crack sales. Members and associates of the Elm Street Wolves also shared firearms and used those firearms to protect the Wolves’ territory from encroachment by rivals, including the Strip Boys and GMF gangs.

Forty-seven members and associates of the Elm Street Wolves—**STEVEN KNOWLES, MICHAEL ANDREWS, GLEN BASKET, JEROME BROOKS, ROBERT BRUCE, STANLEY BRUCE, MARCUS CHAMBERS, GERALD CHARLES, GERARD CHARLES, MICHAEL CLEMONS, QUEJUAN COLLINS, MICHAEL DENNIS, RAYVON DIAZ, JOSEPH DUQUESNE, JAMES EDMONSON, KYLE ELLISON, CHRISTOPHER GLIVENS, CHRISTOPHER GRANGER, DEXTER GRANGER, KAREEM GRANGER, RYAN GRANGER, DAQUAN GREENE, PAUL HARDY, JASON HARRIS, TYREE HUGHES, WILLIE JACKSON, MARK JONES, RASHAD MCNULTY, DONTE MELVIN, ANTHONY NORTHOVER, MARCUS ODOM, DOMINICK PALLANO, SHAWN PATTERSON, DONALD PEGUES, DEXTER PICKETT, MARQUISE PICKETT, BERNARD POTILLO, TRAVIS ROBINSON, MARCU.S.EPPERD, ERIC SMITH, SHARIF STEWART, JAMES SUMMERS, SAMUEL SUTTON,**

DEXTER THOMAS, RONNELL THOMAS, EDWARD WHITNEY, and ANDREW WILSON—are charged with conspiring to distribute

crack cocaine from 2000 through August 2011. Forty-one of these defendants are also charged with using, carrying, possessing, and discharging firearms during the narcotics conspiracy. **KNOWLES**, one of the leaders of the Elm Street Wolves, and two other members, **MICHAEL ANDREWS** and **DEXTER GRANGER**, are also charged with the murder of Christopher Cokley, a member of a rival gang, on July 4, 2009.

A five-count indictment, *United States v. Preston Hardy et al.*, charges 12 members and associates of the Cliff Street Gangsters with conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine and marijuana, as well as firearms offenses. The Cliff Street Gangsters are a drug trafficking organization whose members have sold crack cocaine and high-grade marijuana in the vicinity of Cliff Street in Yonkers, New York since at least 2005. Like the Elm Street Wolves, members and associates of the Cliff Street Gangsters sold narcotics and shared firearms to protect their territory from encroachment by rival gangs.

Twelve members and associates of the Cliff Street Gangsters—**PRESTON HARDY, JAMES GLOVER, MICHAEL GLOVER, TERRANCE GONZALEZ, JAMES HARDY, AUDAI HOWARD, JOSHUA JENKINS, TERRELL LUCAS, MIGUEL MARQUEZ, GENE THOMAS, SHAWN THOMAS, and BRANDON WILLIAMS**—are charged with conspiring to distribute crack cocaine and marijuana from 2005 through August 2011.

Eleven of these defendants are also charged with using, carrying, possessing and discharging firearms during the narcotics conspiracy. The Cliff Street Gangsters were aligned with the Elm Street Wolves in a long-running, violent dispute with members of the Strip Boys and GMF gangs. Certain members of the Elm Street Wolves and Cliff Street Gangsters committed acts of violence to protect their respective drug territory, including beatings, stabbings, and shootings.

Two additional indictments, *United States v. Hector Valentine, et al.*, and *United States v. Michael Jones*, charge four

U.S. Asks to Hide Witnesses and Evidence During the Upcoming Trial of Former CIA Officer Jeffrey Sterling

McNabb Associates, P.C. (Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 12:42 PM August 10, 2011

Politico on August 10, 2011 released the following:

“By Josh Gerstein

Federal prosecutors want permission to introduce evidence that the public will not see and to use screens to shield the identities of some witnesses during the upcoming trial of former CIA officer Jeffrey Sterling, who’s accused of leaking top-secret information to a New York Times reporter.

In a court filing late Tuesday, prosecutors said the unusual measures are needed to safeguard national security secrets and to assure the safety of witnesses who worked undercover as officers or agents for the U.S.

“In light of national security, counter-intelligence, and personal safety concerns, the government asks that some of those witnesses be referred to throughout the public proceedings by the initial of their true last name (e.g. Mr. D. for John Doe), and that a screen be used to prevent the identities of several of those current or former officers from being revealed to the public,” prosecutors said in the motion submitted to U.S. District Court Judge Leonie Brinkema in Alexandria, Va.

Sterling faces ten felony counts relating to allegations that he told Times reporter James Risen about Operation Merlin, a CIA effort to transmit flawed nuclear weapon designs to Iran. In his 2006 book, “State of War,” Risen said the Russian defector to the U.S. that the CIA used to convey the information to Iran actually pointed out the flaws to the Iranians. Prosecutors have said aspects of Risen’s account are false but they have not been specific.

Sterling’s lead defense attorney, Ed MacMahon, bridled at the prosecution requests to prevent the public from seeing some witnesses and evidence at the trial,

Former TSA Employee Pleads Guilty to Federal Hate Crime for Assaulting Elderly Somali Man

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 3:43 PM August 10, 2011

George Thompson, 64, a former employee of the Transportation Security Administration in Minneapolis, pleaded

which is currently set for October 17.

“Sterling’s entitled to a public trial and we’re going to do everything we can to make sure he actually gets a public trial and not one controlled by the CIA,” MacMahon said in a brief interview Wednesday.

The Sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees defendants the right to a public trial and to confront witnesses against them. However, judges have on some occasions allowed use of non-public evidence, pseudonyms, screens or even disguises for witnesses.

One of the most controversial techniques proposed by the prosecution, the so-called silent witness rule, allows the judge, the prosecution, the defense and the jurors to see a document while a witness is being questioned about it. Defense lawyers and press advocates have complained that the technique amounts to secret testimony because the jury is effectively receiving evidence to which the public has no access.

Defense attorneys have also complained that the secrecy measures, when used at trial, send a not-so secret signal to jurors that the court has concluded that the matters at issue involve national security secrets—effectively encouraging jurors who must decide that issue to reach the same conclusion.

Prosecutors also revealed Tuesday that the Russian defector, referred to in court papers as “Human Asset No. 1,” may be called as a witness at Sterling’s trial. In the court filing (posted here), prosecutors said they are likely to request that his identity and name be protected through use of the same techniques.

Prosecutors said they expected the use of the silent-witness procedure would occupy only about 40 minutes of questioning during the trial. If the judge opposes using such a procedure, prosecutors asked that she close the courtroom altogether and release a transcript of the testimony after

it has been edited to remove classified information.

The same prosecutor who is handling Sterling’s case, William Welch, recently proposed using the silent-witness rule as well as a series of codes at the trial of a former National Security Agency staffer who faced leak-related charges. The judge in that case rejected that approach, according to lawyers involved. The case was settled through a plea bargain and never went to trial.

In 2007, a federal judge ruled against the bulk of the government’s request to use the silent-witness procedure as well as secret recordings at the trial of two pro-Israel lobbyists accused of obtaining and disclosing classified information. The judge said he might allow the procedure on a document-by-document basis. That case was dropped by the Justice Department in 2009.

During a 2006 trial for alleged Hamas operatives in Chicago, the judge closed the courtroom as members of Israel’s secretive Shin Bet security service testified in the case. The press and public were permitted to hear the proceedings from a nearby room.

Brinkema ruled late last month that prosecutors cannot require Risen to testify about his confidential sources. It is unclear whether the government will seek to appeal her ruling.”

To find additional federal criminal news, please read [Federal Criminal Defense Daily](#).

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Prosecutors Seek as Much as 24-1/2 Years for Raj Rajaratnam

McNabb Associates, P.C. (Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 11:37 AM August 10, 2011

Reuters on August 10, 2011 released the following:

“By Andrew Longstreth (Reuters) – Prosecutors asked a federal judge to sentence Raj Rajaratnam to as much as 24-1/2 years in prison, calling the Galleon Group hedge fund founder “arguably the most egregious violator” of insider trading laws ever to be caught.

Rajaratnam, who was convicted of insider trading in May, should receive a sentence of between 235 to 293 months, or roughly 19-1/2 to 24-1/2 years, said prosecutors in a court filing Tuesday evening.

“Raj Rajaratnam’s criminal conduct was brazen, arrogant, harmful, and pervasive,” said the filing. “He corrupted subordinates. He corrupted entire markets. Day after day, month after month, year after year, Rajaratnam operated as a billion-dollar force of deception and corruption on Wall Street.”

Prosecutors argued that the sentence they seek, which they said is in accordance with the federal guidelines, is needed to reflect the seriousness of Rajaratnam’s criminal activity and to “deter others — particularly in the hedge fund and money management world from engaging a crime that is far too rampant.”

A spokeswoman for Rajaratnam declined to comment on the government’s filing.

In an earlier filing on Tuesday, lawyers for Rajaratnam sought a sentence “substantially below” what U.S.

guidelines recommend, saying a long prison term would be tantamount to a death sentence.

Lawyers for the 54-year-old Rajaratnam said such a sentence would be unfair and overstate the seriousness of the offense. “Mr. Rajaratnam’s failing health and the unique constellation of ailments ravaging his body mean, quite simply, that a lengthy period of imprisonment will constitute a death sentence and result in the permanent and final separation of Mr. Rajaratnam from his family,” said the filing.

U.S. District Judge Richard Holwell is expected to sentence Rajaratnam on September 27 and need not follow the federal guidelines.

In the memo, lawyers for Rajaratnam also sought to portray him as a philanthropist who has made a positive contribution to society. They noted he had donated more than \$45 million of his personal wealth to charitable causes.

They also pointed to letters provided by Rajaratnam’s friends, family, business colleagues and others that they say “describe a man remarkable for his kindness, quiet manner, lack of pretense, and boundless generosity.”

One letter they cited came from a childhood friend from Sri Lanka, where Rajaratnam was born as the second oldest of five children and the son of a business executive and homemaker.

The letter said that as a boy Rajaratnam would help families with household chores in exchange for a monetary

contribution to charities he was involved with.

“I remember my mother looking out of the window and feeling amazed by this boy born with a silver spoon in his mouth working our lawn in sweltering Colombo heat to raise a few rupees for his cause,” the letter said.

Rajaratnam’s lawyers argued that the evidence submitted to the court “bears scant resemblance to the greedy criminal kingpin the government attempts to portray.”

Rajaratnam was found guilty on five counts of conspiracy and nine counts of securities fraud in May.

Prosecutors accused him of trading on inside information from corporate executives, traders and others, resulting in \$63.8 million of illegal profit.

The case is USA v Raj Rajaratnam et al, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, No. 09-01184.”

To find additional federal criminal news, please read [Federal Criminal Defense Daily](#).

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Thai Court Reconsiders Viktor Bout’s Extradition

McNabb Associates, P.C. (Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 11:15 AM August 10, 2011

The Thai court in Bangkok has started the reconsideration of the decision on extradition of Russian businessman Viktor Bout to the US. Bout’s lawyer filed the relevant demand back in 2010.

Bout was arrested in Thailand in 2008 following the request from the US authorities.

In 2010 he was extradited to New York. His lawyers claim this was done with the violation of the local legislation.

The US accuses Bout of illegal weapon trade but he denied the accusations. The jury court on Bout’s case was slated on October 11.

This article was published by The Voice of Russia on August 10, 2011. Thanks to @DOBROYEUTRO for sending the article to us.

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U.S. Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant from South Carolina Pleads Guilty for Role in Scheme to Steal Military Equipment in Iraq

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 4:27 PM August 10, 2011

Eric Scott Hamilton, 40, of Pelzer, S.C., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge J. Michelle Childs in the District of South Carolina to a criminal information charging him with two counts of conspiracy to steal public property.

**U.S.**

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Yonkers residents with conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine as well as substantive counts of possession and distribution of crack cocaine. HECTOR VALENTINE, LEONARD BAMBERG and RONALD CHANCE are charged with conspiring to distribute crack cocaine in Yonkers from October 2010 through May 2011, and with possessing crack cocaine with the intent to distribute the crack. MICHAEL JONES is charged with conspiring to distribute crack cocaine in Yonkers from 2010 through May 2011 and with possessing crack with the intent to distribute.

A fifth indictment, *United States v. Jonathan Harvey-Acquino, et al.*, charges two Yonkers residents with selling firearms. JONATHAN HARVEY-ACQUINO and BRANDEN JONES are charged with conspiring to distribute firearms and with selling two semiautomatic firearms in Yonkers from November 2010 through April 16, 2011.

Federal and local law enforcement officers executed court-authorized warrants today on 13 locations tied to many of the named defendants. During the arrests and searches, agents and officers seized a number of firearms, quantities of crack and marijuana, as well as cash from at least 11 individuals and locations.

Sixty-two of the 65 defendants charged in the indictments were arrested today or were previously in custody. The defendants arrested today are expected to

Brooklyn Man Pleads Guilty to Online Identity Theft Involving More Than \$700,000 in Reported Fraud

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 11:28 AM August 10, 2011

A Brooklyn, N.Y., man pleaded guilty today in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Va., for his role in managing a credit card fraud operation that operated throughout the East Coast of the United States.

Bastrop Area Child Abuser Suspect Arrested by Fugitive Task Force

(U.S. Marshals Service News)

Submitted at 10:56 AM August 10, 2011

August 10, 2011 - Abraham Moya Ortiz, whose last known address was in the Del Valle area, was arrested this morning by the Lone Star Fugitive Task Force near the intersection of Tinnin Ford Rd., and Riverside without incident. Ortiz was sought by Bastrop County authorities last month for his alleged involvement with the continuous sexual abuse of a child, a first degree felony in Texas.

be presented in White Plains federal court later this afternoon. A chart setting forth the charges in the indictments and the applicable penalties is below.

The Indictments are the result of a long-term investigation conducted by federal, state, and local law enforcement authorities working with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York. In March 2009, this office charged three members of the Elm Street Wolves—GREGORY FULLER, DAVON YOUNG, and THOMAS CHAMBLISS—with the January 2008 murder of a narcotics dealer in northern Yonkers. In January 2011, FULLER, YOUNG, and CHAMBLISS were each convicted after trial of murder, conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, robbery and firearms offenses.

They are scheduled to be sentenced on September 29, 2011. In July 2011, LUZ RIVERA pled guilty to operating a stash apartment used by members of the Elm Street Wolves to package crack cocaine, and is awaiting sentencing.

This Office also charged DESHORN SHEALY, a member of the Cliff Street Gangsters, with conspiracy to distribute crack in October 2010. The case is pending.

Mr. BHARARA praised the outstanding investigative work of the FBI and the Yonkers Police Department. He also thanked the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Immigration and

Los Angeles Jury Convicts Two Church Pastors and Their Employee of \$14.2 Million Medicare Fraud Scheme

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 1:18 PM August 10, 2011

After a two-week trial in federal court in Los Angeles, a jury found Christopher Iruke, 60; his wife, Connie Ikpoh, 49; and Aura Marroquin, 30, guilty of multiple charges.

The United States Marshals Service Announces Interns for the Fall Semester

(U.S. Marshals Service News)

Submitted at 11:04 AM August 10, 2011

August 10, 2011 - The Marshals Service is proud to announce that the first five candidates for the New Mexico State University and United States Marshals Service Volunteer Student Internship Program in Las Cruces, New Mexico have been selected. The Interns have received notice that they are to report and will officially start the Volunteer Student Intern Program in August.

Customs Enforcement, the New York State Police, the Westchester County Department of Public Safety, and the Westchester County District Attorney's Office for their assistance in the case. He added that the investigation is continuing.

The prosecution is being handled by the Office's White Plains Division. Assistant U.S. Attorneys MICHAEL ENGLISH, ANDREW BAUER, and TELEMACHUS KASULIS are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the indictments are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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U.S. v. Steven Knowles, et al."

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U.S. Marshals Stop Local Escape Attempt

(U.S. Marshals Service News)

Submitted at 10:53 AM August 10, 2011

August 09, 2011 - On August 4, 2011 the United States Marshals along with Grady County Jail personnel thwarted an attempt to escape from jail by federal prisoner Sergio Contreras-Sanchez, aka "Boxer". Also arrested in the escape attempt was Maria Jimenez, girlfriend to Contreras-Sanchez.



Eduardo Garcia Indicted by a Laredo Federal Grand Jury for Extortion Under Color of Official Right and Unauthorized Access to Protected Computer Information

McNabb Associates, P.C. (Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 8:20 AM August 10, 2011

The U.S. Attorney's Office Southern District of Texas on August 9, 2011 released the following:

“Webb County Deputy Constable Indicted for Accepting Bribes

LAREDO, Texas – A Webb County Deputy Constable has been arrested following the return of an indictment by a Laredo grand jury accusing him of accepting bribes in his official capacity and accessing protected computer information, United States Attorney José Angel Moreno announced today along with FBI Special Agent in Charge Cory B. Nelson and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) acting Special Agent in Charge Thomas E. Hinojosa.

A four-count indictment was returned under seal on Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2011, charging Deputy Constable Eduardo Garcia, 44, of Laredo, with three counts of extortion under color of official right, that is, accepting bribes from another purported engaged in criminal conduct including illegal narcotics trafficking in exchange for the performing or not performing an official act. The fourth count of the indictment accuses Garcia of unauthorized access to protected computer information.

Garcia was arrested by FBI agents late yesterday afternoon. He made his initial

Alleged Mexican Mafia Members Paul Anthony Sanchez, Eduardo Garcia, Jason Ryan Gonzales, Christopher Ybarra, Jesus P. Sanchez, Adrian Lemus, John Jay Navarro, Andrew Rodriguez, and Joseph Andrew Correa Indicted by a Federal Grand Jury on Federal Drug Charges

McNabb Associates, P.C. (Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 8:36 AM August 10, 2011

The U.S. Attorney's Office Western District of Texas on August 9, 2011 released the following:

“FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES ARREST NINE HONDO-BASED TEXAS MEXICAN MAFIA MEMBERS BASED ON FEDERAL CHARGES

United States Attorney John E. Murphy, FBI Special Agent in Charge Cory B. Nelson and Texas Department of Public Safety Director Steve McCraw announced today that eight Hondo, Texas-based members and associates of the Texas Mexican Mafia (TMM) have been arrested based on a federal drug indictment; an ninth TMM member, on a federal firearms charge.

Those arrested, and charged by

appearance this morning before U.S. Magistrate Judge Guillermo Garcia at which time the indictment was officially unsealed and Garcia was ordered temporarily detained pending a detention hearing set for Thursday, Aug. 11, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. before U.S. Magistrate Judge J. Scott Hacker.

According to allegations in the indictment, Garcia has been a peace officer since 1993. During all times relevant to the indictment, he was employed as a deputy constable involved in operating a prison transport van among other duties. In or about Oct. 22, 2008, Garcia is accused of accepting a \$500 bribe to provide protection for a vehicle which he believed to be transporting in excess of 500 grams of cocaine from south Laredo to north Laredo. He is also accused of accepting another \$500 bribe on Nov. 21, 2008, to escort a second vehicle he believed to be transporting cocaine. Garcia is accused in the third count of the indictment of accepting a \$200 bribe to cause another to check a license plate number for a specific license plate through the Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (TLETs), a protected computer system in March 2011. Lastly, Garcia is accused of a violating the computer fraud and abuse act by causing another person to exceed authorized access by performing a license plate check and obtaining information

indictment include: 30-year-old Paul Anthony Sanchez of Hondo, Texas; 40-year-old Eduardo Garcia of Poteet, Texas; 30-year-old Jason Ryan Gonzales of Hondo; 29-year-old Christopher Ybarra of Hondo; 31-year-old Jesus P. Sanchez of San Antonio; 31-year-old Adrian Lemus of Hondo; 23-year-old John Jay Navarro of Pearsall, Texas, and, 29-year-old Andrew Rodriguez of Hondo. Authorities are still looking for 37-year-old Joseph Andrew Correa of Hondo.

A federal grand jury indictment, returned on July 20, 2011, and unsealed today, charges that since October 1, 2010, all of the defendants, with the exception of Rodriguez, have conspired to interfere with commerce by threats and/or violence. The indictment alleges that they conspired to extort money from methamphetamine, heroin and marijuana traffickers operating in Hondo, Poteet and Pearsall through the

from a protected computer.

Each of the three Hobbs Act violations carries a statutory maximum penalty upon conviction of 20 years in prison without parole and a \$250,000 fine. The alleged computer abuse and fraud act violation carries a maximum five-year-term of imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine upon conviction.

The investigation resulting in the charges against Garcia was conducted by the Laredo offices of the FBI and the DEA. Assistant United States Attorneys Roberto F. Ramirez and Elizabeth R. Rabe are prosecuting the case.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence.

A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.”

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coercive collection of a ten percent drug tax, also known as “the dime.” Collection of “the dime” was enforced by robbery, serious bodily injury or other acts of violence.

The indictment also charges defendants Correa and Rodriguez with two counts of distribution of methamphetamine; Sanchez, one count of distribution of heroin. Upon conviction, the defendants face up to 20 years in federal prison on the conspiracy charge and between five and 40 years in federal prison per drug distribution charge.

Authorities also arrested 38-year-old Ignacio Aragon, Jr., of San Antonio this morning while executing a search warrant at his residence. Investigators discovered a loaded .40 caliber semiautomatic pistol inside the residence. A federal criminal



Luis Andres Cardona Indicted by a McAllen Federal Grand Jury for Production of Child Pornography

McNabb Associates, P.C. (Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 8:15 AM August 10, 2011

The U.S. Attorney's Office Southern District of Texas on August 9, 2011 released the following:

"McALLEN, Texas – A McAllen grand jury has indicted Luis Andres Cardona, 53, for production of child pornography, United States Attorney José Angel Moreno announced today.

The one-count indictment, returned by the grand jury on Aug. 9, 2011, charges Cardona, of Mission, Texas, with producing images of child pornography beginning in December 2008 through October 2010 of a minor child using materials that had been mailed, shipped or transported in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce.

The federal charges arise from an investigation initiated by the Mission Police Department which culminated in the arrest of Cardona in May 2011 on state charges involving the alleged sexual abuse of a nine-year-old female child. The federal charges are the result of further

investigation by the FBI. Presently in state custody, Cardona is expected to be transferred into federal custody for arraignment on the federal charges in the very near future.

If convicted of production of child pornography, Cardona faces no less than 15 years up to life in federal prison without parole, a fine of \$250,000 and a term of supervised release of no less than five years up to life during which the court can impose any number of conditions designed to protect children. Additionally, registration as a sex offender is mandatory.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Juan F. Alanis and Kimberly Bulger Leo are prosecuting the case.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal,

state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafefchildhood.gov.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence.

A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law."

To find additional federal criminal news, please read [Federal Criminal Defense Daily](#).

Douglas McNabb and other members of the U.S. law firm practice and write extensively on matters involving Federal Criminal Defense, INTERPOL Red Notice Removal, International Extradition and OFAC SDN List Removal.

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Naser Jason Abdo Indicted by a Waco Federal Grand Jury for Possession of an Unregistered Destructive Device As Well As Possession of a Firearm and Ammunition by a Fugitive From Justice

McNabb Associates, P.C. (Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 8:26 AM August 10, 2011

The U.S. Attorney's Office Western District of Texas on August 9, 2011 released the following:

"NASER JASON ABDO INDICTED BY A FEDERAL GRAND JURY IN CONNECTION WITH BOMB PLOT

United States Attorney John E. Murphy and Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent in Charge Cory B. Nelson announced that a federal grand jury seated in Waco returned an indictment this afternoon charging 21-year-old Naser Jason Abdo with possession of an unregistered destructive device as well as possession of a firearm and ammunition by a fugitive from justice.

The three-count indictment specifically alleges that on July 27, 2011, Abdo was in possession of a destructive device not registered to him in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record as well as a .40 caliber semi-automatic pistol and 20-gauge shot shells while being a

fugitive from justice.

According to court records, officers with the Killeen Police Department arrested Abdo on July 27, 2011. At the time of his arrest, the defendant, an absent without leave (AWOL) soldier from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, was in possession of the handgun plus instructions on how to build a bomb as well as bomb making components, including six bottles of smokeless gunpowder, shotgun shells, shotgun pellets, two clocks, two spools of auto wire, an electric drill and two pressure cookers. Court documents also allege that Abdo intended to use the materials to assemble two destructive devices with the intention of detonating them inside an unspecified restaurant frequented by soldiers from Fort Hood.

Abdo remains in federal custody. If convicted, he faces up to ten years in federal prison and a maximum \$250,000 fine per count.

This case is being investigated by agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation together with U.S. Army Criminal

Investigation Command, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Killeen Police Department and the Texas Department of Public Safety. Assistant United States Attorney Mark Frazier is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

An indictment is merely a charge and should not be considered as evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law."

To find additional federal criminal news, please read [Federal Criminal Defense Daily](#).

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ALLEGED

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complaint, filed this morning, charges Aragon with being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm. Aragon's criminal history includes felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance, burglary and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. Upon conviction, Aragon faces up to ten years in federal prison.

This investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation together with the Texas Department of Public Safety–Criminal Investigations Division, U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Marshals Service, San Antonio Police Department, Bexar County Sheriff's Department and the Bexar County District Attorney's Office also assisted in this investigation.

An indictment is merely a charge and should not be considered as evidence of

guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.”

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