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Southern District of New York*

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U.S. CHARGES 20 MEMBERS OF BRONX HOME INVASION CREWS WITH
ROBBERY, WEAPONS OFFENSES, NARCOTICS CONSPIRACY AND HOMICIDE

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, WILLIAM G. McMAHON, the Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, New York Field Division, and RAYMOND W. KELLY, the Commissioner of the New York City Police Department, announced the unsealing in Manhattan federal court today of three Indictments charging 20 individuals with robbery, firearms and narcotics offenses stemming from their alleged participation in robbery crews that targeted both narcotics dealers in residences and commercial establishments in the Bronx, Mount Vernon and Queens, New York. Three defendants also are charged with a homicide that occurred during the course of one of the robberies.

The indictments collectively name the following defendants as being members of various robbery crews: LUIS SANCHEZ, a/k/a "Chegui," a/k/a "Cheguito," JUAN MATOS, a/k/a "Indio," a/k/a "Carlito," ANGEL MEDINA, a/k/a "Joseph," a/k/a "Alexis Joel Cuevas," a/k/a "Flaco," WILLIAM C. SUAREZ, JOSE ANTONETTI, a/k/a "Superman," a/k/a "Joey," JOSE FERNANDEZ, a/k/a "Huele," ARIEL BRUNO, VICTOR ALEJANDRO, a/k/a "Tito," FELICIA CASTILLO, JAVIER ROBLES, a/k/a "Nene," DERRILYN NEEDHAM, a/k/a "Ingrid," JOEY FIGUEROA, CHRISTIAN QUINONES, DONOVAN FRANCIS, a/k/a "Brian," WILLIAM MENDOZA, a/k/a "Willie Benz," COREY THOMPSON, MICHAEL CARDOZA, a/k/a "John," DAVID TIRU, a/k/a "Jus," BARON GONZALEZ and RICHARD RIVERA.

Indictments S1 04 Cr. 36 (LAP), 04 Cr. 1025 and 04 Cr. 1036 were all unsealed today.

Indictment S1 04 Cr. 36 (LAP) charges defendants LUIS SANCHEZ, JUAN MATOS, ANGEL MEDINA, WILLIAM C. SUAREZ, JOSE ANTONETTI, JOSE FERNANDEZ, ARIEL BRUNO, VICTOR ALEJANDRO and FELICIA CASTILLO with conspiring to commit robberies of narcotics dealers and commercial establishments in the Bronx from in or around September 2001 through and including in or around December 2003, committing numerous such gunpoint robberies during the same time frame and using, possessing, brandishing and discharging firearms during the robberies. SANCHEZ, MATOS, MEDINA, SUAREZ, ANTONETTI, FERNANDEZ, ALEJANDRO and CASTILLO are also charged with involvement in a related narcotics conspiracy during which

the members stole kilogram amounts of cocaine, cocaine base and heroin, which they later distributed to others. SANCHEZ, MEDINA and SUAREZ are additionally charged with the shooting death of Elvis Gonzalez during the August 24, 2002, attempted gunpoint robbery of Gonzalez in the lobby of 3555 Bruckner Boulevard in the Bronx.

Indictment 04 Cr. 1036 charges JAVIER ROBLES, DERRILYN NEEDHAM, JOEY FIGUEROA, CHRISTIAN QUINONES, DONOVAN FRANCIS, WILLIAM MENDOZA, LUIS SANCHEZ, COREY THOMPSON, MICHAEL CORDOZA and DAVID TIRU with conspiring to commit numerous robberies of narcotics dealers in the Bronx, Mount Vernon and Queens, New York, from in or around 2001 through and including in or around January 2004, committing numerous such gunpoint robberies during the same timeframe and using, possessing and brandishing firearms during the robberies. ROBLES, NEEDHAM, FIGUEROA, FRANCIS, MENDOZA, SANCHEZ, THOMPSON, CORDOZA and TIRU are also charged with their participation in a related narcotics conspiracy, during which they stole cocaine and marijuana and conspired to distribute those drugs to others. FIGUEROA is additionally charged with possessing a firearm after having been convicted of a felony offense.

Indictment 04 Cr. 1025 charges VICTOR ALEJANDRO, JOEY FIGUEROA, BARON GONZALEZ, RICHARD RIVERA and LUIS SANCHEZ with

conspiring to rob narcotics traffickers in the Bronx and Manhattan from in or about 1997 through in or about January 2003, possessing firearms during and in furtherance of the robbery conspiracy and conspiring to distribute cocaine during the course of the robbery conspiracy. FIGUEROA and RIVERA are also charged with the robbery of a drug dealer in the Bronx in 2000.

United States v. Luis Sanchez, et al., S1 04 Cr. 36 (LAP) is currently pending before United States District Judge LORETTA A. PRESKA. Set forth below are the defendants and the maximum potential sentence and potential mandatory sentence faced by each defendant:

DEFENDANT	MAXIMUM POTENTIAL SENTENCE	POTENTIAL MANDATORY SENTENCE
LUIS SANCHEZ	Death Penalty/Life Imprisonment	145 years
JUAN MATOS	Life	220 years
ANGEL MEDINA	Death Penalty/Life Imprisonment	270 years
WILLIAM C. SUAREZ	Death Penalty/Life Imprisonment	20 years
JOSE ANTONETTI	Life	295 years
ARIEL BRUNO	Life	32 years
VICTOR ALEJANDRO	Life	17 years
FELICIA CASTILO	Life	120 years

In connection with United States v. Javier Roble, et al., 04 Cr. 1036, set forth below are the defendants and the

maximum potential sentence and potential mandatory sentence face by each defendant:

DEFENDANT	MAXIMUM POTENTIAL SENTENCE	POTENTIAL MANDATORY SENTENCE
JAVIER ROBLES	Life	17 years
DERRILYN NEEDHAM	Life	17 years
JOEY FIGUEROA	Life	17 years
CHRISTIAN QUINONES	Life	17 years
DONOVAN FRANCIS	Life	17 years
WILLIAM MENDOZA	Life	17 years
LUIS SANCHEZ	Life	17 years
COREY THOMPSON	Life	17 years
MICHAEL CORDOZA	Life	17 years
DAVID TIRU	Life	17 years

As to United States v. Victor Alejandro, et al., 04 Cr. 25, set forth below are the defendants and the maximum potential sentence and potential mandatory sentence faced by each defendant:

DEFENDANT	MAXIMUM POTENTIAL SENTENCE	POTENTIAL MANDATORY SENTENCE
VICTOR ALEJANDRO	Life	17 years
JOEY FIGUEROA	Life	17 years
BARON GONZALEZ	Life	17 years
RICHARD RIVERA	Life	17 years
LUIS SANCHEZ	Life	17 years

Mr. KELLEY praised the investigative efforts of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF") and the New York City Police Department, who have jointly investigated the case. Mr. KELLEY also thanked the Bronx County District Attorney's Office, the Mount Vernon Police Department, the Nassau County Police Department, and ATF Offices in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Orlando, Florida; and Puerto Rico.

Assistant United States Attorneys LAURIE A. KORENBAUM and JASON SABOT 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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