



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **KCK MAN FOURTH TO PLEAD GUILTY IN MARIJUANA CONSPIRACY**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Kan., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute 100 kilograms or more of marijuana.

**Pedro Linares**, 39, of Kansas City, Kan., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this afternoon to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute 100 kilograms or more of marijuana between Feb. 1, 2000, and Feb. 20, 2000.

**Linares** is the fourth co-defendant to plead guilty to the conspiracy since an indictment was returned by a federal grand jury on March 8, 2000, in Kansas City.

Co-defendants **Jennifer Hicks**, 47, and **Arturo Delreal**, 50, both of El Paso, Texas, and **Roman G. Merino**, 35, of Kansas City, Mo., also pleaded guilty after being indicted by a federal grand jury on March 8, 2000.

All of the defendants admitted to their role in the conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute 100 kilograms or more of marijuana in Kansas City, Mo.

In pleading guilty, the co-defendants admitted that they each played a role in transporting marijuana from El Paso to Kansas City. According to Graves, **Hicks** and **Delreal** drove a van loaded with marijuana from El Paso to Kansas City. As **Hicks** was driving the van, Graves added, she was stopped by law enforcement officers for speeding and subsequently gave her consent for law enforcement officers to search the vehicle. The search revealed more than 300 pounds of marijuana concealed in the undercarriage of the vehicle, Graves said.

Since pleading guilty, **Merino** has been sentenced to three years and six months in federal prison without parole, **Delreal** has been sentenced to two years and six months in federal prison

without parole and **Hicks** was sentenced to five years of federal probation.

As a result of today's plea agreement, **Linares** could be subject to a sentence of up to 40 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine of up to \$2 million. The sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney W. Brent Powell. It was investigated by the Kansas Highway Patrol, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, and the Metropolitan Methamphetamine Drug Task Force.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)