



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO CO-DEFENDANTS SENTENCED IN COCAINE CONSPIRACY AFTER 11 KILOS ARE DISCOVERED AT NORTHLAND APARTMENT

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two co-defendants, one from New York and one from Colorado, were sentenced in federal court today for their role in a conspiracy to distribute cocaine. Federal law enforcement agents seized nearly 11 kilograms of cocaine when they arrested five co-defendants at a Northland apartment complex on Oct. 28, 2002.

Luis Fernando Lopez, 42, of Bronx, New York, a citizen of Ecuador, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to 10 years in federal prison without parole.

Sergio Ramos-Munoz, 30, of Denver, Colo., a citizen of Mexico, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to seven years in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Ramos-Munoz** to forfeit to the United States a 2002 Ford F-150 truck that was used to facilitate the distribution of cocaine.

On May 27, 2003, the morning his trial was scheduled to begin, **Lopez** pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine. **Ramos-Munoz** pleaded guilty to the same charge on March 12, 2003. Two more co-defendants have also pleaded guilty to their roles in the cocaine conspiracy, and one co-defendant was convicted by a federal jury. All five of the co-defendants were indicted by a federal grand jury on Nov. 7, 2002, Graves said, for their roles in the conspiracy to transport cocaine brought into Kansas City en route to New York.

* **Roger Salcedo**, 31, of Inglewood, Calif., was found guilty by a federal jury on May 29, 2003, of conspiring to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine.

* **Armando Urrueta**, also known as Aron Garcia-Martinez, 32, of Kansas City, Mo., a citizen of Mexico, pleaded guilty on March 12, 2003, to conspiring to distribute five kilograms or

more of cocaine.

* **Jenny Maria Moreno**, 20, of New York, N.Y., pleaded guilty on March 22, 2003, to conspiring to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine.

Graves explained that **Lopez** arranged for approximately 11 kilograms of cocaine to be brought from Denver, Colo., to Kansas City, Mo., for further transport to New York. **Lopez** hired a Maryland woman to drive the cocaine from Kansas City to New York, Graves said, and instructed the other co-defendants on where to take the cocaine and how to hide it during transportation.

Lopez met **Moreno** and **Salcedo** in Chicago and traveled with them to Kansas City. Upon arriving, Graves said, they checked into a hotel and arranged to pick up the cocaine from **Garcia-Martinez** and **Ramos-Munoz**.

According to Graves, Drug Enforcement Administration agents were conducting surveillance on **Salcedo** on Oct. 28, 2002, at a Kansas City hotel, where he met **Lopez**, **Moreno** and the Maryland female. Surveillance led agents to Sycamore Hills Apartments at 504 N. W. 55th Terrace in Kansas City, Mo., where **Urrueta** and **Ramos-Munoz** picked up a box containing the cocaine. Surveillance then led agents to Kelly Crossings apartment complex at 7831 N.W. Roanridge Road in Kansas City, Mo. Agents observed the defendants engaged in activity in and around one of the garages. **Urrueta** and **Ramos-Munoz** were stopped by agents as they were driving out of the apartment complex, Graves said, and **Salcedo**, **Lopez** and **Moreno** were confronted by agents in front of the garage. Graves said the DEA agents found the box containing 11 one-kilogram bundles of cocaine sitting open on the floor of the garage.

A search warrant was obtained for the apartment at Sycamore Hills, Graves added, where agents found a loaded Spanish-made Llama .32 caliber automatic pistol, more cocaine and items used to measure and package bulk narcotics.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Candace R. Cole and Jeff Valenti. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and DEA Task Force officers.

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