



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALIFORNIA MAN SENTENCED FOR INVOLVEMENT IN KC COCAINE CONSPIRACY AFTER BEING CONVICTED BY JURY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a California man was sentenced in federal court today for his 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.

* **Roger Salcedo**, 30, of Inglewood, Calif., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith to 20 years in federal prison without parole.

On May 29, 2003, **Salcedo** was found guilty by a federal jury of conspiring to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine.

Salcedo is among five co-defendants indicted by a federal grand jury on Nov. 7, 2002, for their roles in the conspiracy to transport cocaine brought into Kansas City from Denver, Colo., en route to New York. Three other co-defendants who pleaded guilty also were recently sentenced, and another has pleaded guilty to her involvement in the conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

* **Armando Urrueta**, also known as Aron Garcia-Martinez, 32, of Kansas City, Mo., a citizen of Mexico, was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison without parole on Aug. 19, 2003.

* **Luis Fernando Lopez**, 42, of Bronx, New York, a citizen of Ecuador, was sentenced on Aug. 18, 2003, to 10 years in federal prison without parole.

* **Sergio Ramos-Munoz**, 30, of Denver, Colo., a citizen of Mexico, was sentenced on Aug. 18, 2003, 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.

* **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 and awaits sentencing.

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