



# Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida**

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## INDICTMENT CHARGES 12 MORE DEFENDANTS IN COCAINE CONSPIRACY

Orlando, Florida - United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton today announced the unsealing of an indictment charging twelve defendants with conspiring to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine.

The defendants are:

- OMAR MEDINA-SANTIAGO, age 32, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico;
- JOSE ROSARIO-OQUENDO, a/k/a "Cheko," age 36, Bayamon, Puerto Rico;
- ALBERTO TORRES-GARRASTEQUI, a/k/a "Tito Pasture," age 38, Bayamon, Puerto Rico;
- JONATHAN MELENDEZ, a/k/a "Rasta," a/k/a "Chulo," age 28, Orlando, Florida;
- RAMON GOITIA-MORA, a/k/a "Moncho," age 36, Kissimmee, Florida;
- YAHAIRA CORDERO-GONZALEZ, a/k/a "Yaha," age 29, Orlando, Florida;
- ALBA RIVERA, a/k/a "Nivi," age 31, Orlando, Florida;
- JESSICA CRUZ, a/k/a "Rompa Discoteca," age 26, Kissimmee, Florida;
- LUIS CRUZ, a/k/a "El Viejo," age 48, San Juan, Puerto Rico;
- JOSE RODRIGUEZ, age 38, Orlando, Florida;
- EDGARDO RIVERA-OCANA, age 28, Orlando, Florida; and
- JORGE RIVERA, age 22, Kissimmee, Florida.

The maximum penalty each defendant faces, if convicted, is life imprisonment and a fine of \$4 million.

Three defendants were arrested early this morning in Orlando: Yahaira Cordero-Gonzalez, Jessica Cruz, and Jose Rodriguez. In Puerto Rico this morning, three other defendants were arrested: Jose Rosario-Oquendo, Alberto Torres-Garrastequi and Luis Cruz. Initial court appearances for those taken into custody today will be held this afternoon at the Federal Courthouses in Orlando and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Edgardo Rivera-Ocana and Ramon Gotia-Mora are already in state custody on unrelated charges. The remaining four defendants are at large, and authorities are actively searching for them.

According to the indictment, the alleged cocaine conspiracy began in November 2005 and continued through June 12, 2007. The indictment alleges that the conspirators operated in Orange, Osceola, Sarasota, and Polk Counties, Florida, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and elsewhere.

This indictment follows and is related to the successful federal prosecution of 31 defendants who were charged in 2007 with being involved in the same conspiracy. Thirty of those defendants have been convicted and sentenced to an aggregate of 278 years in prison. The last of the defendants has been arrested in Miami, where he is facing separate charges. Eventually he will be brought to Orlando for federal prosecution. Court documents disclose that the conspirators were mailing parcels containing cocaine from Puerto Rico to numerous Orlando area addresses. Authorities estimate that the group was mailing up to fifty kilograms of cocaine each week.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S.

Postal Service, the U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement, the Internal Revenue Service, the Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation, and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Bruce S. Ambrose.