

MBI



Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation

NEWS RELEASE

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Operation Maximum Press Release

On September 15, 2005, agents from the MBI, FDLE, DEA, and ICE completed the first stage of an 18 month narcotics investigation and served **2 search warrants** in Central Florida and South Florida. Agents are presently serving **10 arrest warrants** for Cocaine Trafficking in connection with the investigation. The search warrants are being served at 4942 Simmons Road, Orlando, Fl. and 16580 SW 173rd. Avenue, Miami, Fl.

The Central Florida organization is suspected of receiving **10 Kilos of Cocaine a month** from a South Florida drug trafficking organization, and distributing the Cocaine throughout Central Florida. The alleged leader of the Central Florida Organization is **Maximo Gonzalez**. **Maximo Gonzalez** is a well known festival promoter in Central Florida and was the former owner of the *Paladium Nightclub* that was located at 7430 Republic Drive, Orlando.

Other persons being charged include **Ricardo Gonzalez, Adam Hernandez, Rigoberto Gato, Abdiel De Jesus, Edwin Seda, Jesus Santiago, Juan Castellanos, Juan German, and Edmundo Caraballo**.

The investigation was funded by the Florida Violent Crime and Drug Council and investigative assistance was provided by the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) support center.

As the investigation crossed several jurisdictions, the case will be prosecuted by **Attorney General Charlie Crist's Office of Statewide Prosecution**. The investigation continues and additional arrests are anticipated.

Contact persons for the news release are Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation Narcotics Commander Larry Zwieg, (407) 467-4460 or Florida Department of Law Enforcement Special Agent Supervisor Danny Banks at (407) 448-0970.

The Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation is a multi-agency Narcotics, Vice and Organized Crime law enforcement task force assigned to Orange and Osceola Counties. The member agencies of MBI are the State Attorney of the Ninth Judicial Circuit; Sheriff of Orange County; Orlando Police Department; Winter Park Police Department; Apopka Police Department; Ocoee Police Department; Eatonville Police Department, Sheriff of Osceola County; Florida Department of Law Enforcement; Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration; and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation