

# NEWS

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United States Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey  
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Camden, New Jersey 08101

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***Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney***

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***More Information?*** Contact the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

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## Atlantic County Man Admits Trafficking in Methamphetamine and Firearms

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(More)

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CAMDEN – An Atlantic County man pleaded guilty today to drug and gun trafficking charges, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

Jesus Anguino-Cardenes, 33, a.k.a. “Chuee,” of Pleasantville, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Jerome B. Simandle to one count each of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine and 50 grams or more of crack cocaine, and conspiracy to distribute firearms without a license. Judge Simandle continued Campos-Diaz’s detention and scheduled sentencing for March 28.

Anguino-Cardenes, along with co-defendants Oscar Campos-Diaz, 24, a.k.a. “Amigo,” of Egg Harbor Township, Jose Ismael Valdez-Gastelum, 56, of Nogales, Ariz., and Angel Gonzalez-Amaro, 27, a.k.a. “Pablo,” a Mexican national who is illegally in the U.S., were arrested on criminal Complaints on Oct. 6, 2006.

At his plea hearing, Anguino-Cardenes admitted that, from June 2006 to October 2006, he agreed with Campos-Diaz, Gonzalez-Amaro and others to distribute methamphetamine and other illegal drugs.

Anguino-Cardenes admitted that in furtherance of the conspiracy he had several conversations with an individual named Carlos, whom he later learned was a confidential informant working with law enforcement, in which he discussed selling methamphetamine, other drugs and guns to Carlos. On several occasions, Anguino-Cardenes admitted he had met Carlos and supplied him with ecstasy pills.

On Aug. 4, 2006, Anguino-Cardenes met Carlos at the Pleasantville Shopping Center and took \$5,000 from an associate of Carlos for the purchase two machine guns and one hand-grenade, he admitted. On Aug. 10, Anguino-Cardenes met with another associate of Carlos in Pleasantville and gave him a Masterpiece Arms TM .45 ACP semi-automatic firearm, a Masterpiece Arms TM .9 mm semi-automatic firearm, two ammunition magazines for the weapons and a “\$50 bag” of methamphetamine, he admitted.

Anguino-Cardenes admitted that on Oct. 4, 2006, he and Campos-Diaz met with Carlos at the boardwalk in front of the Tropicana Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City, during which the sale of three pounds and 11 ounces of crystal methamphetamine was discussed. The next day, Oct. 5, Campos-Diaz and Anguino-Cardenes brought approximately 1.6 kilograms of “ice” methamphetamine to a Taco Bell in Pleasantville to sell to Carlos. Both defendants were arrested shortly after their arrival for the scheduled drug transaction.

Count One, which charges conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, and 50 grams or more of crack cocaine, carries a statutory mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison, a maximum penalty of life, and

a fine of \$4 million. Count Two, which charges conspiracy to distribute firearms without a license, carries a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Simandle will consult the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Christie credited Special Agents with ICE's Cherry Hill Office, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge John P. Kelleghan in Philadelphia, DEA's Atlantic City Resident Office, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Gerard P. McAleer in Newark, and ATF's Atlantic City Satellite Office, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge mark Potter, for investigation of the case.

The Government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Diana Carrig of the Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Lori Koch, Esq.      Asst. Federal Public Defender