

NEWS

United States Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey
401 Market Street, Fourth Floor
Camden, New Jersey 08101



Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney

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Contact:
J. Gregory Reinert, PAO
856-757-5233

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 20, 2008

Atlantic County Man Sentenced to 100 Months in Federal Prison for Trafficking in Methamphetamine and Firearms

(More)

Greg Reinert, PAO
Public Affairs Office

856-757-5233
973-645-2888

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CAMDEN – An Atlantic County man was sentenced to 100 months in federal prison today for his guilty plea to drug and gun trafficking charges, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge Jerome B. Simandle also ordered Oscar Campos-Diaz, 27, a.k.a. “Amigo,” an undocumented Mexican national residing in Egg Harbor Township, to serve five years of supervised release upon the completion of his prison term. In sentencing the defendant, Judge Simandle noted that Campos-Diaz will be deported upon the completion of his prison term. Campos-Diaz has been detained without bail since his arrest in October 2006.

Campos-Diaz pleaded guilty on Dec. 11, 2007, before Judge 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.

Campos- Diaz and his co-defendants Jesus Anguino-Cardenes, 34, a.k.a. “Chuee,” of Pleasantville, Jose Ismael Valdez-Gastelum, 57, of Nogales, Ariz., and Angel Gonzalez-Amaro, 28, a.k.a. “Pablo,” a Mexican national who is illegally in the U.S., were arrested on criminal complaints on Oct. 6, 2006.

Anguino-Cardenes pleaded guilty before Judge Simandle on Dec. 14, 2007, 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. On May 22, 2008, Judge Simandle sentenced Anguino-Cardenes to 135 months in prison and ordered him to serve five years of supervised release upon the completion of his prison term.

At their plea hearings, Campos-Diaz and Anguino-Cardenes admitted that from June 2006 to October 2006, they agreed with each other and others to distribute methamphetamine and other illegal drugs. Campos-Diaz and Anguino-Cardenes admitted that in furtherance of the conspiracy they had several conversations with an individual, whom they later learned was a confidential informant (“CI”) working with law enforcement, in which they discussed selling methamphetamine, other drugs and guns to the CI.

Campos-Diaz admitted that on Oct. 4, 2006, he called CI and offered to sell him three pounds of crystal methamphetamine the next day. Campos-Diaz admitted he also arranged to meet with CI later that same day on the boardwalk in front of the Tropicana Hotel and Casino to discuss the drug transaction which was to take place the next day. Campos-Diaz and Anguino-Cardenes admitted that they then met with CI at the boardwalk and agreed to sell three pounds and 11 ounces of crystal methamphetamine for \$84,000. The next day, Oct. 5, Campos-Diaz and Anguino-Cardenes brought approximately 1.6 kilograms of

methamphetamine to a Taco Bell in Pleasantville to sell to CI. Both defendants were arrested shortly after their arrival for the scheduled drug transaction.

In regards to the firearms trafficking conspiracy, both defendants admitted that from June 2006 to October 2006 they agreed with Gonzalez-Amaro to purchase firearms in Georgia and illegally sell the guns in New Jersey for a profit. In August 2006, Gonzalez-Amaro and Campos-Diaz traveled to Georgia and purchased a Masterpiece Arms TM .45 ACP semi-automatic firearm, a Masterpiece Arms TM .9 mm semi-automatic firearm and two magazines. On Aug. 10, 2006, Anguino-Cardenes sold those two guns to CI. On Aug. 24, Gonzalez-Amaro and Campos-Diaz sold two other firearms, a Hi-Point Firearms .45 caliber semiautomatic pistol and a 9mm caliber semiautomatic pistol, to CI.

On March 30, 2007, Gonzalez-Amaro pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine and crack cocaine. Valdez-Gastelum pleaded guilty on Aug. 2, 2007, to one count each of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine and crack cocaine, and conspiracy to distribute firearms without a license. On March 5, 2008, Judge Simandle sentenced Gonzalez-Amaro and Valdez-Gastelum to federal prison terms of 200 months and 60 months, respectively.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Simandle consulted 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 Mrk Potter in Philadelphia, for investigation of the case.

The Government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Diana Carrig and Allen Harberg, Jr., of the Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Richard Harris, Esq. Philadelphia