



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MAN RECEIVES 210-MONTH FEDERAL PRISON TERM IN SAN ANTONIO PIPE BOMB CASE**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced that in San Antonio this morning, 45-year-old Rommel "Rick" Sanchez of San Antonio, was sentenced to 210 months in federal prison on felon in possession of a pipe bomb and crack cocaine charges.

Pleading guilty in October of last year, Sanchez admitted that he distributed two ounces of crack cocaine a day from Summer 2006 to March 2007, resulting in approximately ten kilograms being distributed in a six-month period. His co-defendant, Reinaldo Franco, also distributed crack cocaine for him. Franco admitted to the distribution of crack on a daily basis for Sanchez from October 2006 to April 13, 2007. Each day, Franco received two to three ounces of cocaine powder from Sanchez and made crack cocaine with Sanchez's knowledge.

Sanchez had previously been convicted of a felony, aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon, and thus is prohibited by law from possessing any type of weapon, including a pipe bomb. According to the defendant's own testimony, as well as that of eyewitnesses, the defendant possessed a pipe bomb that he had his associates place under the vehicle of Reinaldo Franco on or about March 28, 2007. The San Antonio Police Department counter-charged the bomb and as a result, it did not detonate.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives together with the San Antonio Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Mark T. Roomberg prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

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