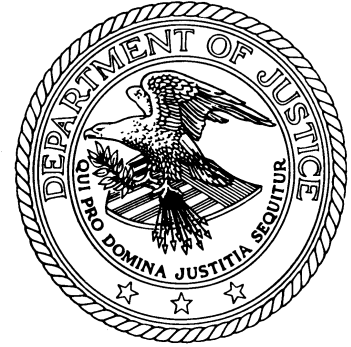


NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Karen P. Hewitt***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - October 15, 2007

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Rafael Francisco Arellano-Felix was sentenced today in federal court in San Diego by Chief United States District Court Judge Irma E. Gonzalez to serve six years in prison, for conspiracy to distribute cocaine and possessing with intent to distribute cocaine. Arellano-Felix was sentenced as a result of his June 2007 guilty plea to the charges.

In his guilty plea, which was entered without a plea agreement with the United States, Arellano-Felix admitted that in late 1980 he was a member of a cocaine distribution conspiracy who negotiated the sale of cocaine to an individual who later turned out to be a DEA undercover agent. Arellano-Felix further admitted that he was one of four individuals who delivered nine ounces of cocaine to the undercover agent in August 1980, that he personally took payment for the cocaine, and that he was counting the money at the time agents placed him under arrest.

According to prosecutors, Rafael Francisco Arellano-Felix is the eldest of the Tijuana-based Arellano-Felix brothers, the leaders of the notorious Arellano-Felix Drug Trafficking Organization for the past two decades. The plea came nine months after he was extradited to the United States from Mexico on September 17, 2006.

United States Attorney Hewitt said, "The key to this prosecution was the extradition of Rafael Francisco Arellano-Felix from Mexico. We appreciate very much the cooperation and assistance provided by Mexican law enforcement officials both in this case and in our ongoing efforts to prosecute members of international narco-trafficking organizations who import illegal narcotics into the United States."

DEA Special Agent in Charge Ralph Partridge said, "Today's sentencing sends an ominous message to those who feel they can traffic drugs with impunity and hide when caught. The DEA and its partners are patient and ever vigilant. A twenty-year-old indictment led first to extradition, later a guilty plea and today a prison sentence. The DEA has a long memory-while justice may at times be delayed, it will be served."

DEFENDANT

Case Number: 80cr0561-IEG

Francisco Rafael Arellano-Felix

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Count One -- Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine, Title 21, United States Code, Section 846 and 841(a)(1)

Count Two -- Possession with Intent to Distribute Cocaine (approximately 205 grams/9 ounces), in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1)

INVESTIGATING AGENCY

Drug Enforcement Administration