



Department of Justice

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FINAL MEMBERS OF "BROWNSIDE LOCOS" STREET GANG SENTENCED IN FEDERAL RICO CASE

Sentences Up To Thirty-Three Years Imposed

Atlanta, GA - 12 defendants convicted in a racketeering conspiracy case against members of the street gang "Brownside Locos" or "BSL" have now been sentenced by United States District Judge Beverly B. Martin. The court imposed sentences up to 33 years in prison.

"The large number of defendants convicted in this case and the magnitude of their sentences demonstrate that law enforcement is serious about combating the gang problem in Georgia," said United States Attorney David E. Nahmias. "The members of the Brownside Locos street gang convicted in this case were responsible for inflicting fear and causing mayhem in our communities. Five of the defendants were convicted of murder charges, including three murders that occurred when gang members opened fire on public streets. These defendants will be behind bars for a long time. Other defendants were responsible for a variety of crimes, including drug dealing and drive-by shootings. And remember there is no parole for federal crimes."

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: The defendants were all members of Brownside Locos, a street gang that operated primarily in Gwinnett, DeKalb, and Fulton counties. Evidence showed that defendants committed crimes, including murder, attempted murder, drive-by shootings, and drug dealing for the purposes of securing a geographic area that they considered their gang territory, to advance the particular gang member's standing within the gang, and to keep members of rival gangs in fear. Several defendants received lesser sentences than they otherwise would have because they cooperated with law enforcement against others in this case and in other investigations.

The following defendants have been sentenced to date, with ROMERO sentenced late this afternoon:

ALEX ROMERO, who went by the gang name “Stranger,” age 29, of Snellville, Georgia, was sentenced to 33 years and 4 months in prison to be followed by 5 years of supervised release, for his role in two separate murders; the July 22, 2001 murder of Karlin Antunez and the October 27, 2002 murder of Aldo Vallejo. Mr. Antunez was murdered when the defendant and other BSL members opened fired on Mr. Antunez when he was walking down Mitchell Road in Norcross. Mr. Vallejo was murdered when the defendant and other BSL members engaged in a running gun battle with occupants of a car driven by Mr. Vallejo, as both vehicles were speeding down the Sugarloaf Parkway Access Road in Lawrenceville, Georgia.

RUBEN FLORES HERNANDEZ, who went by the gang name “Boxer,” age 26, of Lawrenceville, Georgia, was sentenced to 19 years, 6 months in prison, to be followed by 5 years of supervised release, for his role in the May 7, 1998, murder of Richardo Meza. That murder occurred on Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, when SL members opened fired on the car in which Meza and three others were driving.

OMAR FLORES, who went by the gang name “Looney,” age 27, of Atlanta, Georgia, was sentenced to 18 years, 4 months in prison, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release, for his role in the November 21, 2000, double homicide of two rival gang members and the shooting of two other gang members. FLORES was responsible for shooting the two surviving victims of that attack.

CARLOS MAYNARD-REYES, age 25, who went by the gang name “Smokey,” of Winder, Georgia, was sentenced to 17 years, 6 months in prison, to be followed by 4 years of supervised release, for his role in the July 22, 2001, murder of Karlin Antunez, which occurred when the defendant and other BSL members opened fired on Mr. Antunez when he was walking down Mitchell Road in Norcross. It is expected MAYNARD-REYES will be deported from the United States after serving his term of incarceration.

ISRAEL STALABERA, a/k/a Israel Talavera, who went by the gang name “Puppet,” age 24, of Austell, Georgia, was sentenced to 17 years, 6 months in prison, to be followed by 5 years of supervised release, for his role in the October 27, 2002, murder of Aldo Vallejo. Mr. Vallejo was murdered when the defendant and other BSL members engaged in a running gun battle with occupants of a car driven by Mr. Vallejo, as both vehicles were speeding down the Sugarloaf Parkway Access Road in Lawrenceville, Georgia.

AUGUSTINE JASTINO TORRES, who went by the gang name “Gadget,” age 25, of Lawrenceville, Georgia, was sentenced to 11 years, 3 months in prison, to be followed by 5 years of supervised release, for conspiring to possess with intent to distribute cocaine.

PEDRO MEMBRENO, a/k/a Pedro Mejia, who went by the gang name “Silent,” of Doraville, Georgia, was sentenced to 9 years in prison, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release, for his role in conspiring to commit several drive-by shootings and

aggravated assaults against rival gang members. It is expected that MEMBRENO will be deported from the United States after serving his term of incarceration.

ALEJANDRO JAVIER CANTU, who went by the gang name “Big Payaso,” age 27, of Marietta, Georgia, was sentenced to 8 years in prison, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release, for conspiring with other gang members to commit a drive-by shooting against a suspected rival gang member and for traveling across state lines to further BSL’s racketeering drug activity.

MARK ANTHONY GAITAIN, who went the gang name “Creeper,” age 30, of Lawrenceville, Georgia, was sentenced to 6 years, 6 months, in prison, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release for his role in founding BSL and for being involved in a November 8, 2000, drive-by shooting.

JOSE IVAN QUIROZ, who went by the gang name “Turtle,” age 24, of Duluth, Georgia, was sentenced to 5 years, 8 months in prison, to be followed by 4 years of supervised release, for his role in distributing cocaine.

JOSE ROLDAN, who went by the gang name “Chicano,” age 23, of Smyrna, Georgia, was sentenced to 3 years, 4 months in prison, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release, for his role in two separate aggravated assaults against rival gang members.

CHRISTIAN EDGARDO ARREOLA, who went by the gang name “Vago,” age 25, of Lawrenceville, Georgia, was sentenced to 3 years in prison, to be followed by 1 year of supervised release, for his role in not reporting a drive-by shooting against a rival gang member where a bullet fired by Brownside Locos members hit a pregnant woman in the back. It is expected that ARREOLA will be deported upon his release from prison.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with assistance from the DeKalb County Police Department, Gwinnett County Police Department, Chamblee Police Department and the Norcross Police Department.

Assistant United States Attorneys Kim S. Dammers and William McKinnon prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.

