



# Department of Justice

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## **PUERTO RICO TO TAMPA COCAINE SMUGGLERS SENTENCED**

Tampa, FL - U.S. District Judge James S. Moody Jr. today sentenced Oscar Fernandez, age 30, to seven years' and three months' imprisonment for conspiring to possess with intent to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine with his co-defendant Benjamin Torres. Fernandez and Torres, both of Tampa, pled guilty to these charges on May 7, 2008. Torres, age 32, was sentenced on August 21, 2008, to four years and nine months' imprisonment.

According to court documents, on June 13, 2007, a package containing one kilogram of cocaine was sent through the United States Mail to Torres at an address in Tampa from Puerto Rico. Torres was paid by Fernandez to receive the package, which Fernandez intended to distribute. At least three other packages containing cocaine had been sent through the U.S. Mail to Torres for Fernandez from Puerto Rico.

The case was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and the St. Petersburg Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kelley Howard-Allen.