



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias  
Northern District of Georgia

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CONTACT: Patrick Crosby

(404)581-6016

FAX (404)581-6160

## **INDICTMENT HANDED DOWN IN DOCUMENT MANUFACTURING RING BASED IN COBB COUNTY**

### *8 Defendants Charged In Fraudulent Identification Conspiracy*

Atlanta, GA - RICARDO QUINONES CRUZ, 33, ALLEN CARMONA, 21, JUAN CASTILLO, 36, ENRIQUE CRISTOBAL MARTINEZ, 34, IVAN RAUL GARCIA, 40, MANUEL DOZANO ORTIZ, 28, CINDY SALINAS, 19, and, ARMANDO NUNEZ-BRISENO, 29, all of Cobb County, Georgia, have been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of conspiring to possess fraudulent identification documents, including Social Security cards, immigration documents, state driver's licenses and identification cards, and to encourage and induce aliens to reside illegally in the United States. SALINAS was arraigned late today and granted \$25,000 bond, while the other defendants are expected to be arraigned next week.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said, "Working with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, we are committed to halting production of fraudulent documents which allow individuals to remain in the country illegally and to obtain fake identities which can be used to perpetrate other crimes." Mr. Nahmias noted that this case was brought to federal attention by the Cobb County Police Department, who conducted surveillance of the document manufacturing ring and made some undercover purchases of fraudulent documents. "State and local law enforcement often detect identification fraud first and are a vital partner in detecting and prosecuting document fraud."

ICE Special Agent In Charge Kenneth Smith said, "ICE commends the Cobb County Police Department for its outstanding investigatory work. This case is a prime example of how coordinated efforts between local law enforcement and ICE's Document and Benefit Fraud Task Forces can help combat criminal organizations promoting illegal activity. These indictments demonstrate ICE's commitment to thwarting identity theft and benefit fraud. Fraudulent identification can be a preferred tool for criminal and terror networks to carry out their schemes. By targeting the people, money and materials that support these illicit networks, ICE's Document and Benefit Fraud Task Force is putting these organizations out of business and increasing the overall security of residents in Georgia."

According to United States Attorney Nahmias, the charges and other information presented in court: The fraudulent document ring allegedly operated out of the “Twelve Oaks Apartments” in Cobb County. ORTIZ and SALINAS allegedly sold documents from the “#1 Coin Laundry,” located in Smyrna, while NUNEZ-BRISENO allegedly sold documents from “Juan’s Tire Service,” located in Marietta. The defendants sent “runners,” including defendant GARCIA, with the name and photograph of the individual buying the identification back to the apartment, where the documents were manufactured. The apartment contained over 200 fraudulent identification documents purporting to be produced by the United States government. CASTILLO, CARMONA, QUINONES CRUZ, and MARTINEZ allegedly utilized computers, laminating machines, cards, printers, identification cards, and over 1,000 Polaroid and passport-style photographs in the apartment, which had no other furniture and none of the usual personal effects that would indicate that anyone was using the apartment as a residence. QUINONES CRUZ, CARMONA, CASTILLO, MARTINEZ, GARCIA, and ORTIZ are all in the United States illegally. QUINONES CRUZ is also charged with illegal re-entry after a prior deportation.

The indictment charges 9 counts including conspiracy, possession, production and transfer of fraudulent identification documents and document-making implements or authentication features, and trafficking in false and actual authentication features and means of identification. The indictment includes a charge against all defendants of aggravated identity theft, a 2004 law that imposes a mandatory, consecutive two-year prison term to any qualifying criminal sentence when the defendant uses a real person’s identity.

The charges each carry varying maximum sentences ranging from 5 to 15 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

Members of the public are reminded that the indictment contains only allegations. A defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents with Immigration and Customs Enforcement and officers from the Cobb County Police Department.

Assistant United States Attorney Susan Coppedge and Special Assistant United States Attorney Nancy Weiss are prosecuting 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](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan).