

## Department of Justice

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## FOUR DEFENDANTS SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR 100 KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE DELIVERED TO GAINESVILLE DURING LABOR DAY WEEKEND 2006

## Defendants involved in delivery of cocaine hidden in secret compartment in tractor-trailer

Gainesville, GA - ARNULFO FLORES-RODRIGUEZ, 35, of Gainesville, Georgia; CARLOS M. ALONZO, 38, of Port Arthur, Texas; JOSE LUIS GALVAN, 32, of Gainesville, Georgia; and, JORGE ARMANDO SEGOVIA-ROSALES, 26, of Gainesville, Georgia, were sentenced today by United States District Judge William C. O'Kelley on charges of participating in a conspiracy to distribute 100 kilograms of cocaine.

David E. Nahmias, United States Attorney, said, "This case involves the second delivery of huge quantities of cocaine to Gainesville during 2006. Both deliveries originated in Mexico and were made by tractor-trailer to the same office park off the Candler Highway. The first delivery was 40 kilograms. And two weeks before this seizure of cocaine, in another unrelated case, law enforcement agents seized approximately 340 pounds of methamphetamine in Gainesville. These seizures show that drug organizations are moving their trafficking operations further outside of the Atlanta area, apparently believing that detection and apprehension is less likely. The good efforts of law enforcement in these cases show that their belief is unfounded."

Rodney G. Benson, Special Agent in Charge of the DEA Atlanta Field Division stated, "This investigation further solidifies that the greater Metropolitan Atlanta area has become the staging location for the vast majority of cocaine destined for the eastern United States. Through the concerted efforts of a multitude of federal, state and local law enforcement counterparts, we were able to remove this large quantity of poison from the streets. True justice has been served."

FLORES was sentenced to 19 years, 7 months in prison to be followed by 7 years of supervised release, and fined \$1000. FLORES was convicted of these charges on May 1, 2007. ALONZO was sentenced to 13 years, 4 months in prison to be followed by 7 years of supervised release, and fined \$1000. GALVAN and SEGOVIA-ROSALES were

each sentenced to 4 years, 2 months in prison, to be followed by 7 years of supervised release, and fined \$1000. Each will likely be deported following release from custody.

A fifth defendant, JOSE LUIS RODRIGUEZ, 34, of Gainesville, will be sentenced by Judge O'Kelley on Friday, August 3.

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: FLORES was in contact with an individual in Texas who arranged for the delivery of the cocaine inside a secret compartment in a tractor-trailer. ALONZO, a commercial truck driver, picked up the trailer in Texas and was headed east to Georgia when he was stopped by a narcotics investigator for the Texas Department of Public Safety. He cooperated with the investigator, telling him that the load was destined for the Atlanta area. He permitted DEA agents to follow him, and to ride with him, as he made the delivery. The truck arrived in the Atlanta area during the Labor Day weekend. Over the weekend, DEA removed the 100 kilograms of cocaine from the trailer and replaced the packages with packages containing another powdery substance.

On Tuesday, September 5, 2006, ALONZO was directed to Exit 20, off Interstate 985, where he was told to stop at a gas station. Shortly after his arrival, he was met by RODRIGUEZ, who was driving a van. ALONZO followed the van to 1666 Oakbrook Drive, in an office park off the Candler Highway, and backed the trailer into the warehouse. There, at FLORES direction, GALVAN and SEGOVIA-ROSALES opened the secret compartment in the trailer and began to remove the packages. FLORES and ALONZO maintained a count of the packages. When the packages had been removed and transferred to the van, DEA agents moved in to arrest the subjects. FLORES, GALVAN, RODRIGUEZ and SEGOVIA-ROSALES fled into the woods. Only FLORES escaped capture that afternoon.

Agents then searched a house on Robinson Place, in Gainesville, where FLORES and RODRIGUEZ had stayed. They seized a 2003 Hummer and \$30,000 in United States Currency which were forfeited to the United States today.

FLORES was arrested in an apartment in Doraville the next afternoon. From Flores, agents seized \$26,807 in United States Currency, which was also forfeited today.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Assistant United States Attorney H. Allen Moye prosecuted the case.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Atlanta recommends parents and children learn about the dangers of drugs at the following web site: www.justthinktwice.com.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-meus), 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 <a href="www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan">www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan</a>.