

U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of Maine*

*100 Middle Street, Sixth Floor, East Tower (207) 780-3257
Portland, ME 04101 TTY (207) 780-3060
Fax (207) 780-3304
www.usdoj.gov/usao/me*

For Immediate Release
January 18, 2008

Contact: F. Todd Lowell
Assistant United States Attorney
Tel: (207) 945-0373

Man Citizen Sentenced for Federal Firearms Offenses

Bangor, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that **Cosme Sanchez-Ramirez**, 41, a citizen of Cuba, was sentenced on January 18, 2008, in U.S. District Court in Bangor, to 15 years of imprisonment and 5 years supervised release. He was convicted after trial for being a felon in possession of a firearm, making false statements in connection with the attempted acquisition of a firearm, and making a false claim of citizenship.

Court records reveal that in April 2005 the defendant attempted to purchase a firearm at a federally licensed firearms dealer in Bangor. He looked at and handled two different handguns. He also completed a Firearms Transaction Form, stating that he had never been convicted of a felony, and claiming U.S. citizenship. The defendant had been convicted of multiple felonies and is a citizen of Cuba. He placed one of the guns inside his waistband. He told the salesman that he needed a gun for protection and that he wanted one small enough that a police officer walking by him would not notice that he was carrying a gun. He said that he wanted to be able to hide a weapon so that he could get the “man” before the “man” got him.

This case was a part of Maine’s Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative which coordinates the efforts of federal and state agencies. The Project’s goal is to increase successful prosecution of firearms cases and educate potential offenders on the serious consequences of illegal gun use and possession.

United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Violent Crime Task Force, the Bangor Police Department, and the Department of Homeland Security.

#