



Department of Justice

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FIVE DEFENDANTS SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR MANUFACTURING FAKE DOCUMENTS

Atlanta, GA - RICARDO QUINONES CRUZ, 33, ENRIQUE CRISTOBAL MARTINEZ, 35, IVAN RAUL GARCIA, 37, MANUEL DOZANO ORTIZ, 28, and, ARMANDO NUNEZ-BRISENO, 38, all of Cobb County, Georgia, were sentenced late yesterday by United States District Judge Orinda D. Evans on charges of conspiring to possess and transfer fraudulent identification documents, including Social Security cards, immigration documents, state driver's licenses and identification cards.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said, "This prosecution illustrates our ongoing efforts to target manufacturers and traffickers of fraudulent identification documents. We are committed to thwarting criminal enterprises that make and sell counterfeit documents which may be used to allow illegal immigrants to remain in the country and also to harbor criminals in the United States. We commend the outstanding work of the ICE agents on the Document and Benefit Fraud Task Force as well as the Cobb County Police officers who initially investigated the case."

"Make no mistake, fraudulent document vendors are serious criminal organizations," said Kenneth Smith, Special Agent In Charge of ICE's Office of Investigations in Atlanta. "As evidenced by this sentencing, ICE and our partners will continue working together to detect, deter, and disrupt these underground networks."

QUINONES CRUZ, was sentenced to 5 years, 11 months in prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release.

MARTINEZ was sentenced to 1 year, 4 months in prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release.

GARCIA was sentenced to 2 years, 6 months in prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release.

ORTIZ was sentenced to 3 years, 6 months in prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release.

NUNEZ-BRISENO was sentenced to 4 years in prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release.

The defendants pleaded guilty to these charges in December 2007. In addition to the charges of conspiracy and document fraud, QUINONES CRUZ, ORTIZ, and NUNEZ-BRISENO, also pleaded guilty to aggravated identity theft, a law that imposes a mandatory, consecutive two-year prison term to any qualifying criminal sentence when the defendant fraudulently uses another person's identity. Defendants QUINONES CRUZ, ORTIZ, GARCIA, and MARTINEZ have agreed to be deported from the United States cases upon completion of their prison sentences.

According to United States Attorney Nahmias, the charges and other information presented in court: The fraudulent document ring operated out of the "Twelve Oaks Apartments" in Marietta, Georgia. ORTIZ sold documents from the "#1 Coin Laundry," located in Smyrna, while NUNEZ-BRISENO 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. QUINONES CRUZ and MARTINEZ utilized computers, laminating machines, cards, and printers to manufacture identification cards. Over 1,000 Polaroid and passport-style photographs were found 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, MARTINEZ, GARCIA, and ORTIZ are all present in the United States illegally.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Cobb County Police Department.

Assistant United States Attorney Susan Coppedge and Special Assistant United States Attorney Nancy Weiss 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.