



## U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney  
District of Vermont*

---

*United States Courthouse and Federal Building  
Post Office Box 570  
Burlington, Vermont 05402-0570*

*(802) 951-6725  
Fax: (802) 951-6540*

### **PRESS RELEASE**

**BURLINGTON, VERMONT February 23, 2009**

#### **DRUG CONSPIRATOR SENTENCED TO 94 MONTHS IN JAIL**

The Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Vermont stated that Barry Perez, 23, formerly of Hartford, Connecticut, was sentenced yesterday by Hon. J. Garvan Murtha in Brattleboro, VT on one count of conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine and one count of conspiring to possess firearms during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime. Following a hearing, Judge Murtha imposed a 94 month sentence to be followed by 5 years of supervised release. The sentence provided credit for over three years Perez has already served in New Hampshire state custody on related crimes

According to the Indictment to which Perez pled guilty, Perez actively engaged in drug distribution and possessed a weapon during and in relation to his drug distribution operation in the Windsor, Vermont area from 2003 through June 2004. Evidence in the case showed that Perez obtained guns in Vermont and then took the weapons to Hartford, Connecticut to exchange for drugs. Perez was known to wear a bullet proof vest and carry weapons on his person while dealing drugs in Vermont. Perez is the fifth and final defendant convicted and sentenced for his role in the drug operation.

The United States Attorney's Office commends the extensive work of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and the Vermont State Police, in investigating the Perez drug and gun operation in southern Vermont. Perez was represented by Michael Straub, Esq., of Burlington, VT. Assistant U.S. Attorney Eugenia A. P. Cowles handled the sentencing hearing for the government.