



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 6, 2003

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FLAGSTAFF/PHOENIX DRUG RING BROKEN UP

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on June 4, 2003, a federal grand jury at Phoenix, Arizona, returned a nine (9) count indictment involving the following four (4) people: ROBERT JOSEPH HOWARD III, 08/02/82 of Flagstaff, AZ, TRAVIS W. GILES, 08/02/82 of Flagstaff, AZ, KENDALL MINOR, 02/27/80 of Flagstaff, AZ, and CARLOS LUIS MARTINEZ, 05/01/80 of Phoenix, AZ.

The indictment alleges that on or between November 19, 2002, through May 1, 2003, the above named defendants conspired to distribute cocaine. These four defendants were arrested on June 6, 2003. Additionally, two search warrants were executed in Flagstaff and one in Phoenix on June 6, 2003. One vehicle was seized as part of this investigation and a forfeiture allegation is included in the indictment.

The federal indictment charges ROBERT JOSEPH HOWARD III, TRAVIS W. GILES, KENDALL MINOR and CARLOS LUIS MARTINEZ with Conspiracy to Possess with the Intent to Distribute Cocaine, in violation of Title 21 of the United States Code, Sections 841 and 846. A conviction

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for violating Title 21 of the United States Code, Section 846 carries a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment, a \$ 1,000,000 fine or both.

The federal indictment charges ROBERT JOSEPH HOWARD III (5 counts), TRAVIS W. GILES (3 counts), KENDALL MINOR (3 counts) and CARLOS LUIS MARTINEZ (1 count) with Possession with the Intent to Distribute Cocaine, in violation of Title 21 of the United States Code, Section 841. A conviction for violating Title 21 of the United States Code, Section 841 carries a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment, a \$ 1,000,000 fine or both.

The federal indictment charges CARLOS LUIS MARTINEZ (1 count) with Possession with the Intent to Distribute MDMA, also known as ecstasy, in violation of Title 21 of the United States Code, Section 841. A conviction for violating Title 21 of the United States Code, Section 841 carries a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment, a \$ 1,000,000 fine or both.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the United States Marshal Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the Flagstaff Police Department.

The prosecution is being handled by Keith Vercauteren, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR- 03-578-PCT
RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-106

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