

NEWS

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Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Two NYC Men Accused of Selling over 15 Kilograms Of Cocaine to Asbury Park Drug Dealers

(More)

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TRENTON – A New York City illegal narcotics wholesaler and his right-hand man were arraigned on a federal indictment today on powder and crack cocaine distribution charges resulting from an ongoing investigation into the narcotics trade in Asbury Park, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

A federal Indictment, unsealed with today's arraignments, alleges that Aristoteles DeJesus Sterling, 33 of NYC, was a major cocaine supplier to members of an Asbury Park drug network that was taken down in a series of sweeping arrests, the first of which occurred on July 27, 2004. The Indictment alleges that Ndiaye Mamadou, 44, of NYC, conspired with Sterling to distribute both powder and crack cocaine in Asbury Park. According to the Indictment, Mamadou transported cocaine from New York into Asbury Park for Allen Height, Dameion Edgerton and others who had purchased the drugs from wholesale suppliers Sterling and Luis Lugo. Height, Edgerton and Lugo have pleaded guilty and await sentencing.

Both defendants were arraigned before U.S. District Judge Garrett E. Brown, Jr., who ordered both defendants detained pending trial, which is scheduled for March 1.

The Indictment charges both defendants with one count of conspiracy to distribute and to possess with the intent distribute more than 15 kilograms of cocaine, and more than 500 grams of crack cocaine, which carries a maximum penalty of life in prison and a fine of \$4 million. Count Two charges that on March 12, 2004, in Neptune Township both defendants distributed and possessed with intent to distribute approximately 1500 grams of cocaine, which also carries a maximum penalty of 40 years in prison and a fine of \$2 million.

Parole has been abolished in the federal sentencing system. Upon conviction, defendants who are given federal custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

The long-term investigation is a joint effort that includes members of the DEA's Mobile Enforcement Team (MET), ATF, U.S. Marshal's Service, Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office and Sheriff's Department, New Jersey Criminal Justice, and the police departments of Asbury Park and Neptune Township.

Despite Indictment, every defendant is presumed innocent, unless and until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, following a trial at which the defendant has all of the trial rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and federal law.

Christie credited Special Agents of the DEA, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Michael Pasterchick, Jr.; the ATF, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Mark Potter; Investigators of Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction

of Prosecutor John Kaye; the Asbury Park Police, under the direction of Public Safety Director Louis Jordan; the Neptune Twp. Police, under the direction of Chief Howard O'Neil; Monmouth County Sheriff's Department, under the direction of Sheriff Joseph W. Oxley; and the U.S. Marshal's Service, under the direction of U.S. Marshal James T. Plousis.

The Government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney John J. Hoffman of the Criminal Division in Trenton.

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Defense Attorney:

Sterling - Glenn Garber, Esq. NYC
Mamadou - Timothy Donohue West Orange