



ATF News

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Los Angeles Field Division

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CALIFORNIA MAN ARRESTED ON NORTH CAROLINA DRUG CHARGES ***36 Firearms, 9 Kilograms of Cocaine and \$100,000 Recovered***

LOS ANGELES -- John A. Torres, Special Agent in Charge of the Los Angeles Field Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco Firearms and Explosives (ATF), announced today that a La Canada, Calif., man has been arrested on federal drug trafficking charges on a warrant out of North Carolina.

ATF agents, L.A. County Sheriffs Officers and Drug Enforcement Administration agents arrested Hovanes Blikian in La Canada yesterday, and recovered 36 firearms, nine kilograms of cocaine and \$100,000.

Charges against Blikian include conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine, cocaine, and 4-Methylenedioxy-methamphetamine, also known as "MDMA" and "Ecstasy." A federal grand jury indictment returned Jan. 25, which was sealed until Blikian's arrest, also included charges against four individuals in North Carolina, one of them a Salisbury, N.C., police officer.

According to the indictment, the defendants allegedly possessed with the intent to distribute cocaine, "Ecstasy" and methamphetamine at various locations within the Western District of North Carolina, including Iredell and Mecklenburg counties. The group allegedly possessed 500 grams or more of cocaine and 500 grams or more of methamphetamine, as well as a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of "Ecstasy" over the period of February 2002 to January 2005.

"Armed drug dealers leave a trail of violence, and ATF aggressively pursues these violent offenders," Torres said. "These arrests will have a significant, positive effect on our community."

The investigation, originated by the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation in September 2004, continues in the Los Angeles area.

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