



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias
Northern District of Georgia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12/7/06

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan/>

CONTACT: Patrick Crosby

(404)581-6016

FAX (404)581-6160

BELTRAN SENTENCED TO OVER 21 YEARS IN PRISON AS PART OF NORTHWEST GEORGIA DRUG CONSPIRACY

One of 25 Defendants In Cedartown-Based Scheme

Rome, GA - ROSEMBERG BERRERA BELTRAN, 40, of Cedartown, Georgia, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Harold L. Murphy on drug conspiracy charges, as part of a 25-defendant scheme to possess with the intent to distribute controlled substances, including methamphetamine, marijuana, and various prescription drugs, including anti-depressants (Xanax) and pain killers (Lorcet), and the unlawful possession and/or use of a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime.

BELTRAN pleaded guilty to these charges on April 18, 2006, the morning that his trial was set to begin. Today, BELTRAN was sentenced to 21 years, 10 months in prison to be followed by 5 years of supervised release. The Court also ordered BELTRAN to forfeit four houses and the property that they rest on because BELTRAN used those properties to facilitate his drug dealing.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said of the case, "All defendants who were arrested in this case have pleaded guilty. In total, this conspiracy was responsible for distributing thousands of pounds of methamphetamine into the Cedartown and Rome, Georgia and Piedmont, Alabama area. According to the pleas entered by some of the defendants, guns, many of which were stolen, were routinely offered in trade for drugs and, in one instance, a defendant shot at least 75 bullets into another defendant's home because of a drug debt. Beltran was one of the top players in this scheme, and as the Judge found, he was personally and directly responsible for distributing over 1,200 pounds of methamphetamine. That amount of drugs translates to a lot of pain and heartache for the affected communities, and I am pleased that Beltran received a just and substantial sentence."

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: A partnership of law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, Immigration & Customs Enforcement, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; GBI, and the Northwest

Georgia Criminal Enterprise Task Force uncovered a scheme to distribute methamphetamine, marijuana, and powerful prescription drugs. Members of the conspiracy transported drugs from the Cedartown, Georgia, area, to Northeast Alabama for further distribution and resale. At least 1200 pounds of methamphetamine had been distributed as part of the scheme. Evidence presented in Court during the sentencing hearing showed that BELTRAN was one of the leaders of the conspiracy, and that he regularly had delivered up to 40 pounds of methamphetamine at a time to several different co-conspirators.

The group was indicted on March 17, 2005. Five of the indicted defendants are fugitives and are believed to be residing in Mexico. The other 19 defendants arrested have entered guilty pleas. The status of each of their cases is as follows:

ROY CARL SMITH, 70, of Piedmont, Alabama, was sentenced to 13 years and 1 month in prison, to be followed by 5 years of supervised release. SMITH forfeited his house, real property, and vehicle as part of his sentence. SMITH was convicted of drug trafficking and firearms crimes.

SUSIE MOTES TERRY, 53, of Piedmont, Alabama, was sentenced to 2 years and 3 months years in prison, to be followed by 4 years of supervised release. TERRY also forfeited a vehicle. Terry, who is defendant Roy Carl Smith's common-law wife, was convicted of drug trafficking crimes.

WILFIAN PEREZ-VASQUEZ, 29, of Cedartown, Georgia, was sentenced to 4 years and 2 months in prison. PEREZ-VASQUEZ is likely to be deported after he finishes serving his sentence. PEREZ-VASQUEZ was convicted of drug trafficking crimes.

TIMOTHY WAYNE MORRISON, a/k/a TIM TAYLOR, 45, of Borden Springs, Alabama, was sentenced to 14 years in prison, to be followed by 5 years of supervised release. MORRISON also forfeited three firearms as part of his sentence. MORRISON was convicted of drug trafficking and firearms crimes.

DAVID LEE BELL, 53, of Piedmont Alabama, was sentenced to 6 years and 8 months in prison, to be followed by 8 years of supervised release. BELL was convicted of drug trafficking crimes.

KEVIN FLOYD LAPIER, 37, of Piedmont Alabama, was sentenced to 14 years and 10 months years in prison, to be followed by 5 years of supervised release. LAPIER also forfeited a firearm as part of his sentence. LAPIER, who is co-defendant's Susie Motes Terry's nephew, was convicted of drug trafficking and firearms crimes.

SHEILA LANFAIR, 40, of Piedmont Alabama, was sentenced to 3 years and 5 months in prison, to be followed by 4 years of supervised release. LANFAIR was convicted of drug trafficking crimes.

LARRY KEN DRYDEN, a/k/a JACK DRYDEN, 55, of Tallapoosa, Georgia, was sentenced to 5 years and 3 months in prison, to be followed by 5 years of supervised release. DRYDEN was convicted of drug trafficking crimes.

CHRISTOPHER GERALD SMITH, 32, of Cedartown, Georgia, was sentenced to 7 years, 3 months in prison, to be followed by 5 years of supervised release. SMITH was convicted of drug trafficking crimes.

CLAUDE WAYNE COLE, 33, of Muscadine, Alabama, pleaded guilty to drug trafficking and firearms crimes and is awaiting sentencing.

RICHARD LEE DINGLER, 24, of Cedartown, Georgia, was sentenced to 5 years in prison, to be followed by 4 years of supervised release. DINGLER was convicted of firearms crimes.

JERRY EDWARDS, 55, of Piedmont, Alabama, was sentenced to 7 years and 3 months in prison, to be followed by 5 years of supervised release. EDWARDS was convicted of drug trafficking crimes.

ROBERT JASON POLLARD, 30, of Piedmont, Alabama, was sentenced to 12 years and 4 months in prison, to be followed by 5 years of supervised release, and 100 hours of community service. POLLARD also forfeited three firearms as part of his sentence. POLLARD was convicted of drug trafficking and firearms crimes.

DONNIE WAYNE MCFRY, 32, of Piedmont, Alabama, was sentenced to 13 years and 4 months in prison, to be followed by 5 years of supervised release, and 100 hours of community service. MCFRY was convicted of drug trafficking and firearms crimes.

PHILLIP WAYNE ERWIN, 40, of Esom Hill, Georgia, was sentenced to 5 years in prison, to be followed by 4 years of supervised release and 100 hours of community service. ERWIN was convicted of firearms crimes.

JEFFREY SCOTT SEWELL, 32, of Carrollton, Georgia, was sentenced to 15 years in prison, to be followed by 5 years of supervised release. SEWELL was convicted of drug trafficking and firearms crimes.

CHARLES MOTES, 58, of Piedmont, Alabama, was sentenced to 5 years and 3 months in prison, to be followed by 5 years supervised release. MOTES was convicted of drug trafficking crimes.

LIBELLA PINEDA-GUTIERREZ, 27, of Cedartown, Georgia, was sentenced to 4 years and 8 months in prison. PINEDA-GUTIERREZ is expected to be deported after she finishes serving her sentence. PINEDA-GUTIERREZ, who is co-defendant Rosemberg Berrera Beltran's wife, was convicted of drug trafficking and immigration charges.

JOHN SWINDALL, 39, of Cedartown, Georgia, was sentenced to 7 years and 3 months in prison, to be followed by 5 years of supervised release, and 150 hours of community service. SWINDALL was convicted of drug trafficking charges.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; the Georgia Bureau of Investigation; and the Northwest Georgia Criminal Enterprise Task Force, which consists of officers from the Polk County Sheriff's Department, Polk County Police Department, and Floyd County Police Department. Also assisting in the investigation were Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Agency; the Cleborne/Calhoun County, Alabama District Attorney's Drug Task Force; Cherokee County, Alabama Sheriff's Department; and Cleborne County, Alabama Sheriff's Department.

Assistant United States Attorneys Kim Dammers and Will Traynor 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.