



Department of Justice

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DEA INFORMANT INDICTED ON FALSE STATEMENT CHARGE

Atlanta, GA - GILBERTO PEREZ-BANUCHI, 42, of Atlanta, Georgia, has been indicted by a federal grand jury on a charge of making false statements to a federal agency, relating to a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) investigation. He is making made his initial appearance today before a United States Magistrate.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said, "Law enforcement officers face many challenges during investigations of drug activity. When informants intentionally give false statements to investigators, it not only puts the investigation at risk, it can put the safety of officers and others in the community at risk as well."

PEREZ-BANUCHI was indicted by a federal grand jury on June 5, 2007 on one count of making false statements to a federal agency. According to the indictment and information presented in court: On April 16, 2007, PEREZ-BANUCHI made false statements to DEA agents informing them that he and another individual had already been inside a Lawrenceville residence where they had observed large quantities of cocaine, when in fact PEREZ-BANUCHI knew about the cocaine because of an unlawful entry into this residence. PEREZ-BANUCHI's information was used by the agents, along with other information, to obtain a federal search warrant for the residence. When the agents later learned that his information was untrue, the government promptly notified the court that issued the search warrant and defense counsel.

Members of the public are reminded that the indictment only contains charges. The defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Atlanta High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force (HIDTA).

Special Assistant United States Attorney Cassandra J. Schansman is prosecuting 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.