



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12/03/07

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FEDERAL JURY IN GAINESVILLE FINDS TEXAS MAN GUILTY FOR ROLE IN MONEY-LAUNDERING CONSPIRACY

Gainesville, GA - KEVIN FELTS, 59, of Brazoria, Texas, was convicted today by a federal jury on money laundering and weapon charges related to a large scale cocaine distribution ring. The jury returned its verdict today after a week-long trial.

“Felts, and those working with him, directly assisted with the distribution of significant quantities of cocaine throughout the Southeastern United States. As part of the conspiracy, Felts also ensured that the money generated from the sale of the drugs returned to drug traffickers operating in Mexico,” said United States Attorney David E. Nahmias. “We hope that the conviction of this defendant and his co-defendant, Nora Aguiar, sends a clear message that those who launder the dirty money generated by selling drugs face federal prison.”

FELTS was convicted by the jury of conspiring to launder drug money, laundering drug funds and being a felon-in-possession of a firearm. The jury acquitted FELTS of a drug conspiracy charge and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented at trial: On March 12, 2005, Special Agents with the Drug Enforcement Administration received information that a small, private plane would be arriving at Lee Gilmer Airport in Gainesville to pick up over one million dollars in cash. When agents arrived at the airport, they witnessed FELTS and convicted co-conspirator NORA AGUILAR emerge from a small plane which was parked on the tarmac. Agents saw FELTS approach two unidentified men in the airport parking lot. FELTS took two suitcases from the men and returned to the plane. The men quickly departed the area.

As agents approached the plane, FELTS was in the process of loading the bags into the aircraft. When they detained him, the DEA agents realized he had a loaded handgun tucked into the waistband of his pants. At the time, they did not see AGUILAR hiding inside of the darkened plane. When they discovered her, the agents asked her to step down and also ask for consent to search the plane. AGUILAR gave her consent.

Inside, agents found \$1.3 million in cash packaged in a manner consistent with drug proceeds. During the encounter, Aguiar also produced another \$20,000 in cash hidden in her purse.

The agents followed the two unidentified men seen in the parking lot back to a home near Gainesville. Inside that home and another residence, agents discovered 17 kilograms of cocaine and several hundred thousand dollars in drug proceeds.

During a subsequent interview, AGUILAR admitted she was part of a sophisticated drug trafficking operation that distributed narcotics in various cities in the Southeastern United States. Additionally, she also explained that, in the months prior to her arrest, she and FELTS regularly collected drug proceeds in at least five other U.S. cities. These funds were then smuggled back across the U.S.-Mexico border to drug traffickers operating in Mexico.

FELTS is scheduled to be sentenced by United States Senior District Judge William C. O'Kelley on February 22, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. AGUILAR pleaded guilty to related charges in federal court and in August 2007 was sentenced to over 21 years in prison. She is currently serving her sentence.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Assistant United States Attorneys Kurt R. Erskine and Scott Hulseley prosecuted the case.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Atlanta recommends parents and children learn about the dangers of drugs at the following web site: www.justthinktwice.com.

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.