



**U. S. Department of Justice**

United States Attorney  
Northern District of Illinois

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**FORTY-THREE ALLEGED MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES OF THE LATIN KINGS  
STREET GANG FACING STATE OR FEDERAL NARCOTICS CHARGES**

*Twenty-six charged in federal complaints; 17 arrested on state charges  
Heroin, cocaine, and marijuana seized, along with cash and firearms*

CHICAGO — Twenty-six alleged members and associates of the Latin Kings street gang are facing federal narcotics charges, most of them for their alleged roles in one of two drug-trafficking organizations that supplied and distributed multi-kilogram quantities of heroin, cocaine, and marijuana in Chicago and the south suburbs, federal and local law enforcement officials announced today. An additional 17 defendants are facing related state charges in Cook and Will counties. The federal charges, contained in four separate criminal complaints, stem from an investigation of narcotics and firearms trafficking led by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Joliet Metropolitan Area Narcotics Squad, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), together with other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

Agents yesterday seized an undetermined amount of cash and 13 firearms, including five long-barreled weapons, while arresting 16 of the federal defendants. Six other federal defendants were already in custody and four are fugitives. Previously, during the two-year investigation, agents

seized more than \$50,000; four firearms, including a sawed-off shotgun; more than two pounds of heroin, and wholesale quantities of cocaine, all in the Chicago area, as well as nearly two tons of marijuana that was interdicted along the Southwest border.

A federal magistrate judge approved the use of no-knock arrest warrants for two defendants, DAMIAN RIVERA, also known as “Spook” and “King Spook,” 31, of Burbank, and EMMANUEL FERNANDEZ, aka “Maniac” and “Manny,” 27, of Chicago, based on their alleged possession of firearms and expressed willingness to use violence.

As part of the investigation, three federal defendants were arrested earlier this week and charged with conspiracy to possess and distribute cocaine that they planned to steal from what they believed was a drug stash house, but which actually was a ruse as part of an undercover sting operation. The overarching investigation made critical use of an undercover agent who successfully infiltrated the Latin Kings for an extended time.

Twenty-two of the defendants were charged with various drug distribution offenses in two separate criminal complaints that were filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court and unsealed following the arrests. The federal defendants arrested yesterday appeared before Magistrate Judge Arlander Keys in U.S. District Court and all but one remain in federal custody pending detention hearings scheduled for next week.

Gary S. Shapiro, Acting United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, praised the dedication and teamwork of the ATF, Joliet MANS, and HSI agents who worked diligently to disrupt these alleged drug-trafficking organizations. Mr. Shapiro announced the charges with Larry Ford, Special Agent-in-Charge of ATF in Chicago, and Gary Hartwig, Special Agent-in-Charge of HSI in Chicago. The Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division, the Illinois State Police and the Metropolitan Area Narcotics Squad (MANS), as well as the Summit, Bolingbrook,

and Lyons police departments, also participated in the investigation. The investigation was conducted under the umbrella of the U.S. Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF).

“These cases are textbook examples of the work that the U.S. Attorney’s Office routinely performs with all of our law enforcement partners — federal, state, and local — to stem the tide of gangs, guns, drugs, and violent crime in Chicago and neighboring communities,” Mr. Shapiro said.

“Combating drugs and violent crime, while protecting the public, is the mission of ATF,” Mr. Ford said. “Yesterday, the men and women of ATF, together with our law enforcement partners, arrested ranking members of the Latin Kings street gang operating in the suburbs of Summit, South Holland, Joliet, Bolingbrook, Orland Hills, New Lenox, Lemont, and Brookfield, with tentacles reaching into the Ogden police district on Chicago’s near west side, thereby making our respective communities safer. It is a priority of ATF to protect our neighborhoods from drug trafficking and the accompanying use of firearms and violent crime,” he added.

Mr. Hartwig said: “This investigation has dealt a serious blow to alleged criminal organizations suspected of trafficking large quantities of heroin and cocaine from Mexico into the Chicago area. The arrests, including those of several high-ranking Latin Kings gang members, dismantled a destructive supply chain and prevented untold amounts of dangerous drugs and guns from reaching our streets.”

**United States v. Rivera, et al.**

Twelve defendants were charged with various conspiracies to distribute heroin, or were charged individually with possessing heroin with intent to distribute, or distribution of heroin, in an eight-count complaint, supported by a 234-page affidavit. These defendants were associated with defendant DAMIAN RIVERA, the alleged leader of a drug trafficking organization based in

Chicago that bought and sold kilogram quantities of heroin on a monthly basis, the charges allege. Between March and June this year, the Rivera drug trafficking organization allegedly distributed or attempted to possess and distribute at least 5.5 kilograms of heroin and collected more than \$171,850 in heroin proceeds.

In May, agents seized more than a kilogram of heroin and they also seized more than \$53,000 combined on two occasions in May and June. In June 2011, U.S. Customs and Border protection officers seized a shipment of approximately 1,674.8 kilograms of marijuana that was found hidden inside furniture in a tractor-trailer on the U.S.-Mexican border at Laredo, Tex. The electronic manifest listed the "ultimate consignee" as "Damian Rivera dba D. Rivera Construction," with various personal identifiers associated with Rivera.

The complaint details recorded conversations in which Rivera allegedly said that the last time he was in Mexico was when he ordered the load of marijuana that was seized by Customs officers at the border.

Between September 2011 and March this year, the undercover agent and others allegedly purchased approximately 100-gram quantities of heroin on four occasions from Rivera and others, as well as a .380 caliber pistol, a 9 millimeter firearm, a Glock pistol, a sawed-off shotgun, and a bullet proof vest.

Also charged in this complaint were PEDRO ANTONIO HERNANDEZ ACEVES, who allegedly brokered the shipment of kilogram quantities of heroin on behalf of the Rivera's organization; EMMANUEL FERNANDEZ, who allegedly stored and distributed wholesale quantities of heroin, and collected and delivered cash proceeds generated by the sale of heroin. Defendant HECTOR ARIAS allegedly distributed wholesale quantities of heroin and collected cash

for delivery to the organization's heroin supplier, and HILARIO TREVINO allegedly collected the Rivera organization's money.

Rivera and his organization received shipments of wholesale quantities heroin from defendants ISRAEL RIOS, EUGENIO MIRANDA-APARICIO, and ARTURO ESQUIVEL CAMACHO, the charges allege. Defendants LAMONT WALLACE, WILLIAM NUNEZ, ADALBERTO DIAZ, and DEANGELO CURTIS allegedly distributed the heroin.

**United States v. Cisneros, et al.**

Eight defendants were charged with conspiracy to distribute cocaine and two others were charged with distribution of cocaine in a three-count complaint, supported by a 132-page affidavit. These defendants were associated with ALAN CISNEROS, aka "Ghost," 27, of Summit, the alleged leader of a drug trafficking organization based in suburban Summit, and the alleged regional leader of the Midwest Region of the Almighty Latin King Nation until he was arrested in May of this year.

Between November 2011 and May 7, 2012, the Cisneros drug trafficking organization allegedly obtained multi-kilogram quantities of cocaine from suppliers such as co-defendants ANDRES GARCIA and RICARDO JUAREZ, and distributed the cocaine to its customers. Defendant CHRISTIAN RAMIREZ allegedly distributed cocaine and served as a manager of the organization. Ramirez assisted Cisneros by dealing directly with drug suppliers on Cisneros' behalf, and by obtaining, preparing, and storing cocaine prior to its distribution to organization workers and drug customers, the charges allege. Further, Ramirez allegedly collected cash from workers, distributors, and customers, as well as stored and delivered drug money on behalf of the organization. Co-defendants FAUSTINO MORALES, JAVIER ABEJA, ALEJANDRO CABRERA, FERNANDO LLANES, and ERNESTO ROSALES allegedly were drug distributors, or workers, to whom Cisneros allegedly fronted cocaine for distribution. These defendants also

delivered cocaine or cash to Cisneros or Ramirez, prepared cocaine to be sold to customers, stored cocaine and money, and conducted counter-surveillance, according to the complaint. Additionally, Abeja and Llanes allegedly brokered purchases of cocaine from suppliers. Cisneros' wife, DIANA CISNEROS, allegedly worked for the organization and assisted her husband with storing and delivering drugs and proceeds, and conducting counter-surveillance.

In a separate complaint, JUAN AMAYA, aka "Crow," 37, of Chicago, an alleged ranking Latin Kings member who distributed drugs in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood, was charged with distributing an ounce of cocaine to an undercover agent in November 2010.

The three defendants arrested Monday for allegedly conspiring to steal drugs from the undercover stash house are JUSTIN R. DAVILA, aka "Fatman," 23; his brother, JASON J. DAVILA, 21; and NIEKO E. HADLEY, aka "Yogi," 20, all of Joliet.

Eight defendants in the Rivera case face a mandatory minimum of 10 years to a maximum of life in prison and a \$10 million fine, while the others face sentences ranging from a maximum of 20 to 40 years in prison and fines up to \$5 million. All 10 defendants in the Cisneros case are facing a mandatory minimum of five years and a maximum of 40 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$5 million. If convicted, the Court must impose a reasonable sentence under federal statutes and the advisory United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The government is being represented by Assistant United States Attorneys Tiffany Tracy, Peter M. Flanagan, Christopher Grohman, and Philip Fluhr.

The public is reminded that complaints contain only charges and are not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent and are entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

A list of the defendants in the two larger cases follows:

**UNITED STATES v. RIVERA, et al., 12 CR 708**

<b><u>DEFENDANT</u></b>	<b><u>AGE</u></b>	<b><u>TOWN</u></b>	<b><u>STATUS</u></b>
Damian Rivera	31	Burbank	Arrested
Pedro Antonio Hernandez Aceves	37	Mexico	Fugitive
Emanuel Fernandez	27	Chicago	Arrested
Hector Arias	55	Chicago	Arrested
Hilario Trevino	47	Chicago	Arrested
Lamont Wallace	40	South Holland	Arrested
Israel Rios	44	Chicago	Arrested
Eugenio Miranda-Aparicio	36	Berwyn	Fugitive
Arturo Esquivel Camacho	39	Chicago	Arrested
William Nunez	35	Chicago	Arrested
Adalberto Diaz	35	Chicago	Arrested
Deangelo Curtis	27	St. Paul, Minn.	In custody

**UNITED STATES v. CISNEROS, et al., 12 CR 709**

Alan Cisneros	27	Summit	In custody
Ricardo Juarez	33	Cicero	Arrested
Andres Garcia	37	New Lenox	Fugitive
Christian Ramirez	38	Summit	Fugitive
Faustino Morales	35	Summit	Arrested
Javier Abeja	27	Summit	Arrested
Alejandro Cabrera	31	Summit	Arrested
Fernando Llanes	27	Lemont	Arrested
Ernesto Rosales	36	Orland Hills	Arrested
Diana Cisneros	25	Summit	Arrested

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