



*United States Attorney
District of New Jersey*

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**NEW JERSEY MAN SENTENCED TO 87 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR
INTERNATIONAL DRUG AND MONEY LAUNDERING CONSPIRACY**

CAMDEN, N.J. – An Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey man was sentenced today to 87 months in federal prison for his role in an international drug and money laundering conspiracy which imported heroin from Colombia and distributed it in New York and New Jersey, United States Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

Fabio Garcia, 72, previously pleaded guilty on January 22, 2010, before United States District Judge Jerome B. Simandle to one count of heroin distribution conspiracy and one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering. U.S. District Judge Simandle also imposed the sentence today in Camden federal court.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court:

Garcia conspired with others from January 2004 through December 2007 to smuggle heroin from Colombia for distribution in New York City and Atlantic County, New Jersey. Two Colombians with whom he conspired coordinated the smuggling of the heroin into the United States. They would obtain bulk quantities of heroin in Colombia and elsewhere and then arrange for it to be smuggled into the United States, often concealed in machine or vehicle parts transported on planes flying into Miami International Airport. Unindicted co-conspirators and others would then transport the bulk quantities of heroin from Miami to stash houses in New York and New Jersey. Once the bulk shipments of heroin reached the stash houses, co-conspirators and others would process and package the heroin for distribution to Garcia's customers in New Jersey and New York.

At his plea hearing, Garcia admitted that once in New Jersey, the Colombians unpacked the heroin from motorcycle parts in Garcia's garage. The heroin was then packaged into a "shop vac," which Garcia would drive along with the Colombians to New York, deliver the drugs and pick up money. They then packed money in the motorcycle parts and sent it via FedEx to Miami en route to Colombia. Garcia also admitted that the Colombians would leave drug money with him, which he hid in his safe deposit box.

In addition to the prison term, Judge Simandle sentenced Garcia to five years of supervised release and ordered him to forfeit \$120,810 to the United States.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Simandle consulted the advisory U.S.

Sentencing Guidelines, which recommend sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all of that time.

Fabio Garcia's daughter and co-defendant Yvette Garcia is scheduled to appear before Judge Simandle on August 11, 2010, to be sentenced for her role in the drug and money laundering enterprise.

U.S. Attorney Fishman credited special agents of the FBI's Atlantic City Resident Agency, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Michael B. Ward in Newark, and the IRS Criminal Investigation Division, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge William P. Offord, for investigation of the case.

Fishman also thanked special agents of the DEA's Miami Field Division, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Mark R. Trouville; the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Investigation, New York Field Office, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge James T. Hayes Jr.; and the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Theodore F.L. Housel, for their roles in the investigation.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason M. Richardson of the U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense counsel: Michael Huff, Esq., Camden, N.J.