

United States Attorney District of New Jersey

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DRUG DEALER SENTENCED TO MORE THAN 11 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR HER ROLE IN AN INTERNATIONAL DRUG AND MONEY LAUNDERING CONSPIRACY

CAMDEN, N.J. – Yvette Garcia was sentenced today to 135 months in federal prison for her 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.

Garcia, 37, of South Ozone Park, N.Y., pleaded guilty on March 4, 2010, to one count of heroin distribution conspiracy and one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering. Garcia entered her guilty plea before United States District Judge Jerome B. Simandle, who also imposed the sentence today in Camden federal court.

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

Yvette Garcia admitted that between January 2004 and October 2006, her father, Fabio Garcia, brought quantities of heroin to her house in South Ozone Park from his house in Egg Harbor Township, N.J. Two Colombian men also smuggled heroin into the United States on her father's behalf, and she would either drive to Florida to pick it up or the Columbians would bring it directly to New York and store it in her house.

Yvette Garcia distributed the heroin and sent the proceeds from the distribution enterprise back to Colombia to pay for the drugs. She also deposited money into bank accounts controlled by Fabio Garcia or put it in safe deposit boxes in New York that he controlled.

In addition to the prison term, Judge Simandle sentenced Garcia to five years of supervised release and ordered her to pay a fine of \$1,000.

Fabio Garcia was sentenced by Judge Simandle to 87 months in prison on July 7, 2010, for his 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 IRS – Criminal Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Victor W. Lessoff, 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 U.S. Office of Homeland Security Investigations in New York, 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, with the investigation leading to the Indictment.

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: Mark Catanzaro, Esq., Moorestown, N.J.