



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

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**CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
YUSILL SCRIBNER,  
REBEKAH CARMICHAEL  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
(212) 637-2600**

**THREE PLEA IN NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY  
HEROIN PIPELINE CASE**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, EDWARD J. DEFAZIO, the Hudson County (New Jersey) Prosecutor, GERARD P. MCALEER, the Special Agent in Charge of the New Jersey Division of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA"), and CARMEN LABRUNO, Chief of the Hoboken Police Department, announced today that JOSE GONZALEZ, a/k/a "Nutty," RORY PRAYLOW, and MANUEL SUAREZ, a/k/a "Murder," -- three members of a heroin trafficking organization operating in Manhattan and Northern New Jersey -- pleaded guilty during trial. The defendants' jury trial, which began January 16, 2007, ended the following day when the defendants pleaded guilty to all charges in the Indictment. According to the Indictment and evidence at trial:

From 2004 until March 2006, GONZALEZ, PRAYLOW, and SUAREZ bought large kilogram-quantities of heroin in Manhattan and transported the heroin to Northern New Jersey. The defendants then sold the heroin, in bulk, to street-level drug dealers, primarily in Hoboken and Jersey City, New Jersey. In connection with the arrests, law enforcement agents recovered approximately 27,000 glassine bags of heroin, four loaded handguns, and a bullet proof vest, as well as several luxury vehicles equipped with hidden trap compartments that were used to transport the heroin and guns.

As a result of their pleas, GONZALEZ, PRAYLOW, and SUAREZ face a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

Mr. GARCIA praised the efforts of the DEA, the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office, and the Hoboken Police Department.

Assistant United States Attorneys ELIE HONIG and STEVE C. LEE are in charge of the prosecution.

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