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**U.S. CONVICTS VIOLENT BRONX HEROIN KINGPIN OF
DRUG AND WEAPONS CHARGES**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that GEORGE DEJESUS, a/k/a "Georgito," the leader of a violent heroin organization that operated on Boynton Avenue in the Bronx, was convicted late yesterday in Manhattan federal court of narcotics and weapons charges.

According to the evidence presented at trial, from October 2001 through December 2003, DEJESUS was the boss of a violent heroin crew that sold hundreds of bags of heroin per day to heroin users and other drug distributors, resulting in profits for DEJESUS that at times exceeded \$10,000 per day. DEJESUS's illegal business, which operated on Boynton Avenue between Bruckner Boulevard and Watson Avenue, sold heroin from approximately 7:00 a.m. until midnight, by using managers and workers that operated during different shifts throughout the day. The heroin sold by DEJESUS's organization, some of which was purchased by undercover officers of the New York City Police Department, was stamped with brand names such as "Diesel," "Blue Devil," "Budweiser," and "Warlock," among others. According to the trial testimony, DEJESUS was responsible for all day-to-day operations of the business, including supplying the heroin to his managers for retail sale, collecting the drug proceeds at the end of each day, performing counter-surveillance to detect police activity, and switching the brand name stamps on the heroin bags to avoid police detection.

DEJESUS ruled his organization through intimidation and violence. According to the evidence presented at trial, in 2001 DEJESUS participated in the torture of two workers who were suspected of stealing and selling bags of heroin. On another occasion, in May 2002, DEJESUS directed one of his trusted lieutenants to retrieve a .38-caliber chrome revolver for use in

connection with a drug dispute his worker had with an undercover New York City Police officer.

DEJESUS's prosecution was the culmination of a nearly four-year-long NYPD investigation into this high-traffic heroin distribution area in the Bronx, and resulted in the dismantling of this violent and profitable heroin organization. This conviction is the sixth conviction in Manhattan federal court arising out of this investigation.

DEJESUS now faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, and because he had previously been convicted of a narcotics-related felony, DEJESUS faces a mandatory minimum sentence of twenty-five years in prison on the drug and weapons charges. DEJESUS is scheduled to be sentenced on October 6, 2006, at 2:15 p.m., by United States District Judge WILLIAM H. PAULEY III.

Mr. GARCIA praised the cooperative investigative efforts of the Major Case Narcotics Unit of the Bronx Narcotics Division of the NYPD and the New York Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force.

Assistant United States Attorneys MARC P. BERGER and DANIEL L. STEIN are in charge of the prosecution.

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