



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS BROKER ARRAIGNED IN MANHATTAN
FEDERAL COURT ON HEROIN IMPORTATION AND DISTRIBUTION
CONSPIRACY CHARGES**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and JAVIER F. PENA, the Special Agent-in-Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration's ("DEA") Caribbean Division, announced today the unsealing of an Indictment charging EDWIN CHIEDU OBIORAH, a/k/a "Eddie Murphy," with conspiracy to import and to distribute heroin into the United States, and OBIORAH's arraignment before United States Magistrate Judge JAMES L. COTT on these charges. He was arrested in the Dominican Republic on June 21, 2011, and was transferred to the custody of the United States on June 23, 2011, and expelled from the Dominican Republic without further proceedings.

According to the Indictment and other documents filed in Manhattan federal court, as well as statements made during OBIORAH's arraignment:

From at least 2007 through the present, OBIORAH was a key member of an international narcotics trafficking network that spanned four continents, operating in countries in North America, South America, Africa, and Europe. Over at least a four-year period, OBIORAH, a large scale narcotics broker, negotiated the sale of millions of dollars of heroin, for importation into the United States.

OBIORAH is charged with one count of conspiracy to import heroin into the United States, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 963, and one count of conspiracy to distribute heroin, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846. If convicted, he faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison and a maximum sentence of life in prison on each count. The case has been assigned to United States District Judge HAROLD BAER, J.

MR. BHARARA praised the outstanding efforts of the DEA's Caribbean Division, the DEA Lagos Country Office, the DEA's Baltimore District Office, and the DEA's New York Field Division. He also thanked the government of the Dominican Republic and the

Dominican National Drug Control Directorate for their cooperation and assistance.

The case is being handled by the Office's Terrorism and International Narcotics Unit. Assistant United States Attorney RANDALL W. JACKSON is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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