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**UNITED STATES CHARGES 43 MEMBERS OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY
COCAINE TRAFFICKING RING**

*Coordinated Law Enforcement Action Dismantles Drug Ring
Accused Of Distributing \$1 Million Worth
Of Cocaine in Yonkers And Peekskill*

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, JOSEPH M. DEMAREST, JR., the Assistant Director-in-Charge of the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), THOMAS BELFIORE, the Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Public Safety, EDMUND HARTNETT, the Commissioner of the City of Yonkers Police Department, GENE TUMOLO, the Chief of the City of Peekskill Police Department, and JOSEPH BURTON, the Chief of the Village of Ossining Police Department, announced today the unsealing of an Indictment charging 43 members of a cocaine trafficking ring with conspiracy to distribute approximately \$1 million worth of crack and powder cocaine across Westchester County.

After a coordinated strike beginning last night involving more than 200 federal and local law enforcement officers, 37 defendants are in custody. Six defendants are still being sought. The defendants taken into custody today are expected to be presented in White Plains federal court later this afternoon.

In connection with these arrests, federal and local law enforcement officers also executed court-authorized search

warrants on seven locations tied to many of the named defendants. During the arrests and searches, agents and officers seized, among other evidence: (1) a gun; (2) hollow point bullets; (3) approximately \$40,000 in cash; and (4) approximately one kilogram of crack cocaine.

According to the Indictment unsealed today in White Plains federal court:

Between February 2009 and October 2009, a cocaine trafficking organization led by ELVIS SANTANA (the "Santana Organization") distributed at least 22 kilograms of crack cocaine and 6.5 kilograms of powder cocaine across Westchester County, primarily in Yonkers and Peekskill. The Santana Organization collected approximately \$1 million in criminal proceeds from its alleged cocaine trafficking crimes during this nine-month period.

ELVIS SANTANA was the leader of the Santana Organization. As the leader, SANTANA oversaw the transportation of the Santana Organization's cocaine, the cooking of cocaine into crack cocaine, the delivery of the drugs, and the collection of drug proceeds. EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, DANNY BUENO, and ANGEL DELACRUZ were core members of the Santana Organization, and were responsible for supplying cocaine to the other members of the organization who distributed the drugs. More specifically, EMMANUEL MARTINEZ delivered crack and powder cocaine to other Santana Organization members in Yonkers and other communities in southern Westchester. DANNY BUENO and ANGEL DELACRUZ delivered crack and powder cocaine to other Santana Organization members in Peekskill and other communities in northern Westchester and Rockland Counties. Deliveries of cocaine were arranged by telephone conversations and text messages and were usually made either inside buildings or apartments or on the street, often inside cars that had been used to transport the drugs.

In addition to delivering cocaine, EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, ANGEL DELACRUZ, and DANNY BUENO collected proceeds from the sales of cocaine from other Santana Organization members. The cocaine proceeds were temporarily stored in locations in and around Westchester County before being brought to ELVIS SANTANA.

The defendants charged in the Indictment unsealed today were as follows: ELVIS SANTANA, 27, Yonkers, New York; DANNY BUENO, 25, Bergenfield, New Jersey; ANGEL DELACRUZ, 27, Peekskill, New York; EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, 26, Bronx, New York; HAROLD ROMAN, 28, Yonkers, New York; JOEL NORWOOD, 23, Yonkers, New York; LAMONT MASON, 26, Yonkers, New York; ANDRE RODRIGUEZ,

36, Yonkers, New York; HECTOR BARBOSA, 26, Yonkers, New York; JESSIE FONSECA, 20, Yonkers, New York; DENNIS MANCUSI, 28, Yonkers, New York; FRED CANNON, 31, Yonkers, New York; DONTAE DEGREE, 23, Ossining, New York; PABLO RIVERA, 22, Yonkers, New York; MARK HAMMARY, 42, Yonkers, New York; ROBERT BENEDITTINI, 25, Yonkers, New York; JULIO GARCIA, 28, Brooklyn, New York; FRANK VACCARIELLO, 37, Hopewell Junction, New York; DONALD TAYLOR, 40, Peekskill, New York; ROBERT CURRY, 32, Peekskill, New York; JAMES McCRAE, 35, Peekskill, New York; BLAINE SCOTT, 43, Peekskill, New York; ERIC MCKENZIE, 49, Peekskill, New York; BYRON OVERBY, 37, Peekskill, New York; ROBERT BARNES, 27, Peekskill, New York; OMARI NELSON, 22, Peekskill, New York; WILLIAM ANDERSON, 29, Peekskill, New York; JERMAINE GILLES, 19, Peekskill, New York; MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM, 20, Peekskill, New York; PIERRE MYKE, 26, Waterbury, Connecticut; JAI PATTERSON, 26, Ossining, New York; KADEMA NELSON, 26, Peekskill, New York; DONIEL THOMAS, 26, Peekskill, New York; JAMES SKAGGS, 24, Peekskill, New York; TYRELL MOSLEY, 27, Peekskill, New York; TAINA VALENTINE, 24, Peekskill, New York; PRINCE MARSH, 26, Peekskill, New York; TAWAN HINES, 30, Peekskill, New York; SAM SHULER, 28, Peekskill, New York; CHRIS CURRY, 30, Peekskill, New York; SHAUN BROOKS, 22, Ossining, New York; ROBERT EVANS, 26, Peekskill, New York; and MORGAN STOKES, 27, Peekskill, New York.

Mr. BHARARA praised the investigative work of the FBI, the Westchester County Department of Public Safety, the Yonkers Police Department, the Peekskill Police Department, the Village of Ossining Police Department, and the Rockland County Narcotics Task Force. He added that the investigation is continuing.

United States Attorney PREET BHARARA said, "Cocaine is poison. It is a poison that affects our schools, our communities, and our economy. The antidote to that poison is the kind of tough law enforcement action that we have taken today. Families throughout Westchester County have the right to live in neighborhoods free from the poison of drugs and the violence that inevitably accompanies it. That is the right we protect today."

FBI Assistant Director-in-Charge JOSEPH DEMAREST said, "We combined forces to cut off the toxic supply of drugs to Westchester neighborhoods. Experience also tells us that guns and violence often go hand-in-hand with drug trafficking. The thing that unites us is simple but certain: the determination to make our neighborhoods safe and secure for law-abiding New Yorkers, wherever they live."

All 43 of the defendants are charged in Count One of

the Indictment with conspiring to distribute 50 grams and more of crack cocaine and 5 kilograms and more of powder cocaine. If convicted, the defendants all face maximum sentences of life and mandatory sentences of 10 years in prison on Count One. ELVIS SANTANA and EMMANUEL MARTINEZ are charged in Count Two with possession of 50 grams and more of crack cocaine. They each face a maximum sentence of life in prison and a mandatory sentence of 10 years in prison on Count Two. ANGEL DELACRUZ and DANNY BUENO are charged in Count Three with possession of 5 grams and more of crack cocaine. They each face a maximum sentence of 40 years in prison and a mandatory sentence of 5 years in prison on Count Three.

Assistant United States Attorneys NICHOLAS L. McQUAID, DOUGLAS B. BLOOM, and ANNA M. SKOTKO are in charge of the prosecution.

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

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