



Department of Justice

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Western District of Wisconsin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JANUARY 29, 2014

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GRAND JURY RETURNS INDICTMENTS

MADISON, WIS. -- A federal grand jury in the Western District of Wisconsin, sitting in Madison, returned the following indictments today. You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

MADISON MAN CHARGED WITH DRUG & GUN CRIMES

Lonnie Whitaker, 38, Madison, Wis., is charged with possessing cocaine, heroin, and marijuana with the intent to distribute. He also is charged with possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime and being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition. The indictment alleges that he possessed cocaine, heroin, marijuana and a .40 caliber pistol and ammunition on January 15, 2014.

If convicted, Whitaker faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison for possessing cocaine and heroin with intent to distribute, five years in federal prison for possessing marijuana with intent to distribute, and 10 years in federal prison on the felon in possession of a firearm count. The charge of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime has a mandatory minimum penalty of five years and a maximum penalty of life in federal prison; this penalty would be served consecutively to any penalty imposed for the drug offenses.

The charges against Whitaker are the result of an investigation by the Dane County Narcotics Task Force and Madison Police Department. The prosecution of this case will be handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rita M. Rumbelow.

MEXICAN CITIZEN CHARGED WITH IMMIGRATION, DRUG & GUN CRIMES

Jorge L. Gamez Nieto, 30, a citizen of Mexico living in Fort Atkinson, Wis., is charged with illegally reentering the United States after previously being deported. He is also charged with being an illegal alien in possession of a firearm, with possessing 500 grams or more of cocaine with intent to distribute, and with possessing a firearm in

furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. The indictment alleges that he possessed the cocaine and a 9mm pistol on January 8, 2014.

If convicted, Gamez Nieto faces a maximum penalty of two years in federal prison on the illegal reentry charge, 10 years on the possession of a firearm charge, and a mandatory minimum penalty of five years and a maximum of 40 years on the possession of cocaine with intent to distribute charge. The possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime has a mandatory minimum penalty of five years and a maximum penalty of life in federal prison; this penalty would be served consecutively to any penalty imposed for the drug offenses.

The charges against Gamez Nieto are the result of an investigation by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The prosecution of this case will be handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rita M. Rumbelow.

TWO MEN CHARGED WITH MARIJUANA CONSPIRACY

Christopher P. Johnson, 32, Weyerhaeuser, Wis., and Humberto Fierro-Rascon, 40, Florence, Colo., are charged with conspiring to possess marijuana with intent to distribute. The indictment alleges that the conspiracy operated from February to June 2013.

Johnson is also charged with distributing marijuana on August 22, 2013, and possessing marijuana with intent to distribute on August 23, 2013.

If convicted, Johnson and Fierro-Rascon face a maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison on the conspiracy charge. Johnson also faces a maximum penalty of 20 years on each of the additional charges. The charges against them are the result of an investigation by the Barron and Rusk County Sheriffs' Departments; Drug Enforcement Administration; Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation; and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The prosecution of this case will be handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney David J. Reinhard.

MEXICAN CITIZEN CHARGED WITH COCAINE CONSPIRACY

Uriel Sangabriel-Alarcon, 32, a citizen of Mexico who was arrested in Boone County, Ill., is charged with conspiring with others known to the grand jury to possess cocaine with the intent to distribute. The indictment alleges that the conspiracy operated from August 2011 to November 2013.

If convicted, Sangabriel-Alarcon faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison. The charge against him is the result of an investigation by the Sauk County

Sheriff's Department, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation. The prosecution of this case will be handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

CROSS PLAINS MAN CHARGED WITH GUN CRIME

Andrew J. Scoles, 35, Cross Plains, Wis., is charged with being a felon in possession of ammunition. The indictment alleges that he possessed .300 Magnum ammunition on December 22, 2013.

If convicted, Scoles faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison. The charge against him is the result of an investigation by the Dane County Sheriff's Office and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The prosecution of this case will be handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter M. Jarosz.

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