



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 8, 2014

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WEYERHAEUSER MAN SENTENCED TO 42 MONTHS FOR DISTRIBUTING MARIJUANA

MADISON, WIS. -- John W. Vaudreuil, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Christopher P. Johnson, 32, Weyerhaeuser, Wis., was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge James D. Peterson to 42 months in federal prison for distributing marijuana. Johnson pleaded guilty to this charge on July 9, 2014.

The government's summary of proof at the guilty plea and sentencing hearings established that beginning in February 2013, investigators at the Florence Federal Correctional Institute in Florence, Colo., began intercepting telephone calls made by Humberto Fierro-Rascon to other individuals regarding the importation of marijuana into the United States. Specifically, Fierro-Rascon was trying to smuggle a shipment of marijuana from Mexico to Christopher Johnson in northwest Wisconsin. Christopher Johnson was intercepted on numerous phone calls with Fierro-Rascon discussing providing money for the importation of marijuana from Mexico.

In June 2013, prison officials learned through intercepted telephone calls that Tommy Garcia was traveling to Mexico to pick up a load of marijuana for Fierro-Rascon. On June 20, 2013, Garcia and Magdalena Gonzales were stopped crossing the border in El Paso, Texas. A search of their van uncovered 159 pounds of marijuana hidden in the roof of the van. The load of marijuana was intended for Christopher Johnson.

Garcia and Gonzalez were prosecuted in federal court in El Paso. Garcia was sentenced to 60 months and Gonzalez to 30 months in federal prison after their convictions for illegally importing marijuana.

Co-defendant Humberto Fierro-Rascon is set for trial on December 8, 2014, before Judge Peterson in the Western District of Wisconsin.

The charge against Johnson was the result of an investigation conducted by the Barron County Sheriff's Department; Rusk County Sheriff's Department; Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation; and the Drug Enforcement Administration. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney David J. Reinhard.

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