



## It is Right to Fight Discrimination in Lending

Tracy Russo (USDOJ: Justice Blog)

Submitted at 10:27 AM September 6, 2011

The following post appears courtesy of Thomas E. Perez, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. It originally appeared as a letter to the editor of the Wall Street Journal. Mary Kissel's "Justice's New War Against Lenders" (op-ed, Aug. 31) accuses the Justice Department of politicized enforcement of fair lending laws and claims that the [...]

## Miami Construction Business Owner Pleads Guilty to Tax Fraud

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 4:01 PM September 6, 2011

Braynert Marquez of Miami pleaded guilty to a one-count information charging him with aiding and assisting in the preparation and filing of a false employment tax return.

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individuals with numerous drug trafficking offenses: Mauner Mahecha Marcelo, 32; Luis Alexander Mahecha Marcelo, 23; Alexander Hernandez Arrubla, 29; Octavio Amezcua Marcelo, 38; Romir Gustavo Gutierrez Guerrero, 42; Jairo Trejos, 32; Jaider Fabio Gomez Aristizabal, 40; Jose Stiven Berrio Zorrilla, 26; Fernando Pineda Jimenez, 30; Marco Antonio Lopez Loaiza, 52; Victor Mario Palacio Muñoz, 37; Jesus Ernesto Garcia Prieto, 48; Juan Carlos Vasquez Pachon, 39; Roberto Gilton Valencia Pinto, 42; Albin Rodrigo Arrollo Garcia, 43; Manuel Santiago Portocarrero, 45; Jack Jimenez, 35; Oscar Augusto Gutierrez Garcia, 43; Pedro Alejandro Pinilla Castro, 32; Agustin Campos Pardo, 44; Carlos Alfonso Almanza Sanchez, 28; and Rodrigo Tercero Royet Arias, 38.

In Operation Seven Trumpets, a total of thirty-four defendants were charged in five separate indictments for their participation in Colombian-based drug trafficking organizations that used airplanes to transport thousands of kilograms of cocaine from clandestine airstrips located in South America, to clandestine airstrips in Central America,

## David Cuthbertson Named Assistant Director of the Criminal Justice Information Services Division

fbi (Current)

Submitted at 6:00 AM September 6, 2011

— Washington, D.C.

## Alleged Colombian Bacrim Narco-Traffickers Indicted on Cocaine Conspiracy Charges

McNabb Associates, P.C. (Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 7:23 AM September 6, 2011

U.S. Attorney's Office Southern District of Florida on September 2, 2011 released the following:

"U.S. Attorney Announces Charges Against 56 BACRIM Narco-Traffickers in Operation Seven Trumpets and Operation Under the Sea in Six Separate Cases  
Wifredo A. Ferrer, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Jay Bergman, Andean Regional Director, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Mark R. Trouville, Special Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration, Miami Field Division, in conjunction with Viviane Morales Hoyos, Attorney General of Colombia, Director Oscar Naranjo, Colombian National Police, Director Maritza Gonzalez, Colombian Judicial Police, Admiral Alvaro Echandia, Colombian Navy, and General Julio Alberto Gonzalez Ruiz, Colombian Air Force, announce the indictment of more than fifty (50) alleged leaders and associates of militarized Colombian narco-trafficking organizations, known as Bandas Criminales (BACRIMS), for their involvement in drug trafficking from South America to the United States using airplanes and submarines. The BACRIMS are narco-trafficking organizations that seek to fill the power void left by the fall of the Norte Valle Cartel and the dissolution of the Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia (AUC).

On February 11, 2011, U.S. Attorney Wifredo Ferrer announced the creation of the BACRIM prosecution unit within the Narcotics Section of the U.S. Attorney's Office, specifically dedicated to dismantling emerging Bandas Criminales in Colombia. This is the first such unit in

the United States specifically designed to target the emerging BACRIMS. Since then, including today's defendants, more than 100 BACRIM leaders and associates have been indicted by the Southern District of Florida. Today, Ferrer announced the most recent BACRIM prosecutions: Operation Under the Sea and Operation Seven Trumpets, resulting in charges against 56 defendants in six separate federal cases.

U.S. Attorney Wifredo Ferrer stated, "Together with our law enforcement partners in Colombia, we have developed a proactive strategy to combat the rise of the BACRIM. Our common goal is simple: target the BACRIM leadership, dismantle their narco-trafficking operations, and eliminate the threat they pose to the security of the region and the international community."

DEA Special Agent in Charge Mark R. Trouville added, "These indictments are an excellent example of the results that the partnership between the United States and Colombian law enforcement can produce when combining efforts and resources. The Drug Enforcement Administration is committed to continuing these efforts and expect to see the downfall of BACRIMS, just as our past joint efforts eliminated other large scale Colombian-based drug trafficking organizations."

In Operation Under the Sea, twenty-two defendants were charged for their alleged participation in a drug trafficking organization that built and used fully submersible and semi-submersible submarines to transport cocaine from Colombia to Central America, with the ultimate destination being the United States. This indictment, returned on May 17, 2011, charges the following



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mostly Honduras. The indictment alleges that the United States was the ultimate destination for the cocaine loads. According to the charges, the drug trafficking organizations used nominees to purchase U.S. registered planes. These nominees, in turn, submitted false documentation to the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) to hide the true identity of the purchasers (members of the drug trafficking organization). Charged in separate cases in Operation Seven Trumpets are Fernando Bertulucci Castillo, 49; Alvaro Suarez Granados, 53; Sammy Echtaya Rios, 44; Alvaro Suarez Montanez, 25; Marco Castillo Bertrad, 53; Miguel Antonio Monroy Ramirez, 61; Oscar Humberto Sierra Pastrana, 48; Oscar Guillermo Sierra Ferro, 20; John Finkelstein Winer, 57; John Fredy Ruiz Garzon, 33; Enrique Moreno Serrano, 65; Carlos Antonio Ortega Bonilla, 61; Luis Felipe Guerreron, 58; Oscar Arbelaez Davila, 62; Norberto Castaneda Vargas, 45; Jose Hugo Salazar Buitrago, 55; Monica Liliana Franco Garcia, 37; Fabio Gracia Montes, 64; Jose Eduardo Suaza Vargas, 38; Alejandro Canal Duplat, 43; Cristina Eblin Guerra Moo, 54; Dorian Alejandro Menco Delgado, 33; Jorge Barragan Mejia, 55; Richard Alexander Dixon Figueroa, 41; Brulio Tarquino

Blanco Davila, 34; Edgar Fernando Delgado Castro, 56; Jorge Enrique Arrauth Gonzalez, 51; Jaime Garcia Garcia, 61; Carmina Perdomo Barona, 54; Arturo Molano Rodriguez, 59; Jairo Alonso Reina Castillo, 60; Augusto Lozano Garcia, 43; Orlando Gomez Pinzon, 55; and Fernando Sandoval Vasquez, 58.

If convicted, each defendant faces a maximum sentence of up to 60 years in prison.

Today's Operation Seven Trumpets and Operation Under the Sea are the result of the ongoing efforts by the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF), a partnership between federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. The OCDETF mission is to identify, investigate, and prosecute high level members of drug trafficking and money laundering enterprises, bringing together the combined expertise and unique abilities of federal, state and local law enforcement.

U.S. Attorney Ferrer commended the outstanding investigative efforts of DEA Miami Field Division, DEA Bogota Country Office, DEA Cartagena Country Office, the Colombian Fiscalia General, the Colombian National Police, the Colombian Judicial Police, the Colombian

Navy, the Colombian Air Force and all other law enforcement officers from both countries that contributed to the successful execution of these operations. Ferrer stressed that these prosecutions would not be possible without the outstanding cooperation and assistance of the Colombian authorities, at all levels. These cases are being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrea Hoffman.

An indictment is only an accusation and a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt."

To find additional federal criminal news, please read [Federal Crimes Watch Daily](#).

Douglas McNabb and other members of the U.S. law firm practice and write extensively on matters involving Federal Criminal Defense, INTERPOL Red Notice Removal, International Extradition and OFAC SDN Sanctions Removal.

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