



NEWS RELEASE

Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes
Passaic County Prosecutor's Office
401 Grand Street
Paterson, NJ 07505

DRUG COURIER SENTENCED FOR INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE "KILO" OF COCAINE

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY: February 4, 2010

Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes has announced that on Wednesday February 3, 2010 the Hon. Raymond A. Reddin, J.S.C., sentenced Juan Pablo Ortiz to 12 years New Jersey State Prison with 6 ½ years before becoming eligible for parole. Ortiz was convicted of First Degree Possession of cocaine with the Intent to Distribute; third degree Possession of Cocaine and third degree Possession with the Intent to Distribute within 1,000 feet of School Property. Ortiz, 30 of the Bronx, N.Y., was arrested Tuesday, July 17, 2007 at 11 pm by members of the Passaic County Sheriff's Department. Sheriff's officers were alerted to a suspicious vehicle with two occupants who were transporting a "Kilo" of cocaine from New York into Paterson. Officers approached the vehicle at which time Ortiz took off in flight. After a brief chase, Ortiz was detained and brought back to the scene where the "Kilo" of cocaine was discovered on the

passenger side of the vehicle he was traveling in. Trial testimony commenced on November 5, 2009, with testimony by members of the Sheriff's Department and Det. Thomas Trommellen of the Paterson Police Department. The guilty verdicts were returned by the jury Friday, November 13, 2009.

The case was tried by Assistant Prosecutor Josue Vazquez for the State and Donald Yannella, Esq. for the defendant.