



NEWS RELEASE

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55 ARRESTED IN TAKEDOWN OF RING THAT DISTRIBUTED PRESCRIPTION PAIN PILLS AND OTHER NARCOTICS

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY: April 7, 2010

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes, Chief Gary Giardina of the Clifton Police Department, Chief Robert Bracco of the North Haledon Police Department, Chief David Struyk of the Pompton Lakes Police Department, and Acting Chief John Reardon of the Wayne Police Department, announce that as a result of a twelve-month investigation, 55 individuals were arrested on April 7, 2010 for numerous prescription drug-related offenses. The investigation was conducted by the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office, Narcotics/Gangs and Violent Crimes Task Force, Clifton Police Department Anti Crime, Detective and Field Operations Bureaus, North Haledon Police Department, Pompton Lakes Police Department, Wayne Police Department, Paterson Police Department and a number of other law enforcement partners. Among the individuals arrested were Robert Beattys, age 22 of Clifton, New Jersey, Hamzah Mustafa, age 21 of Clifton, New Jersey, Catherine Lemire, age 23, of Wayne, New Jersey, Peter Stisi III, age 26, of North Haledon, New Jersey, Hanifah Muslim, age 46, of Irvington, New Jersey and Abdullah Muslim, age 47, of Irvington, New Jersey.

Beginning in or about early 2009 and continuing to in or about April 2010, the joint investigation led by the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office and the Clifton Police

Department revealed that Robert Beattys, Hamzah Mustafa, Peter Stisi III, Hanifah Muslim, Abdullah Muslim and a number of other individuals were suppliers of large quantities of illegal prescription pills and controlled dangerous substances, including but not limited to, Oxycodone and the following opiate based painkillers under the umbrella of Oxycodone, Percocet, Oxycontin, Roxicodone, a/k/a “Blues” in the Counties of Passaic, Essex, Bergen, Hudson and Morris. Oxycodone, one of the most abused prescription drugs, is a Schedule II narcotic controlled substance prescribed by a licensed physician to treat moderate to severe pain of long duration. Oxycodone has several trade names: OxyContin®, Roxicodone®, Percocet®, Tylox®, and Percodan®. Oxycodone can be highly addictive if abused and not taken under a legitimate physician’s guidance. In addition, the ring supplied buyers with Ketamine a/k/a “Special-K”, Steroids, Cocaine, and Marijuana.

Robert Beattys was arrested and charged with one count of Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance (prescription legend drugs in excess of 100 doses), a crime of the second degree. The Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance charge carries a maximum of up to ten (10) years in New Jersey State Prison.

Hamzah Mustafa was arrested and charged with one count of Leader of a Narcotics Trafficking Network, a crime of the first degree and one count of Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance (prescription legend drugs in excess of 100 doses), a crime of the second degree. The Leader of a Narcotics Trafficking Network carries a sentence of life imprisonment during which the person must serve twenty-five (25) years before being eligible for parole. The Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance charge carries a maximum of up to ten (10) years in New Jersey State Prison.

Catherine Lemire was arrested and charged with one count of Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance (prescription legend drugs in excess of 100 doses), a crime of

the second degree. The Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance charge carries a maximum of up to ten (10) years in New Jersey State Prison.

Peter Stisi, III was arrested and charged with one count of Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance, (prescription legend drugs in excess of 100 doses), a crime of the second degree. The Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance charge carries a maximum of up to ten years in New Jersey State Prison

Hanifah Muslim was arrested and charged with one count of Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance (prescription legend drugs in excess of 100 doses), a crime of the second degree. The Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance charge carries a maximum of up to ten (10) years in New Jersey State Prison.

Abdullah Muslim was arrested and charged with one count of Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance (prescription legend drugs in excess of 100 doses), a crime of the second degree. The Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance charge carries a maximum of up to ten (10) years in New Jersey State Prison.

The following individuals were also charged and/or arrested for selling and/or purchasing illegal prescription drugs:

Bloomfield

Tina Bauman, age 48, of Bloomfield, New Jersey
Fares Ramadan, age 24, of Bloomfield, New Jersey
Anthony Sigari, age 47, Bloomfield, New Jersey

Bloomingtondale

Abdallah Kataw, age 18, of Bloomingtondale, New Jersey
Vlorim Odza, age 22, of Bloomingtondale, New Jersey

Cedar Grove

Matthew A. Roselle, age 22, of Cedar Grove, New Jersey

Clifton

Kaloian I. Barburov, age 23, of Clifton, New Jersey
Teodori Barburov, age 20, of Clifton, New Jersey
Robert Beattys, age 22, of Clifton, New Jersey

David Beattys, age 29, of Clifton, New Jersey
David Brock, age 22, of Clifton, New Jersey
Murat Cagar, age 28, of Clifton, New Jersey
Anthony Calo, age 22, of Clifton, New Jersey
Nick Cisowski, age 29, of Clifton, New Jersey
Martin Errico, age 19, of Clifton, New Jersey
Scott Eustace, age 26, of Clifton, New Jersey
Thomas Gergowitz, age 26, of Clifton, New Jersey
Teddy Kwolek, age 24, of Clifton, New Jersey
Hamzah Mustafa, age 21 of Clifton, New Jersey
Chris Rozborski, age 21, of Clifton, New Jersey
Donna Schwenk, age 40, of Clifton, New Jersey
Lauren Schwenk, age 22, of Clifton, New Jersey
Sharon Sweervs, age 22, of Clifton, New Jersey
Mohammad Taha, age 28, of Clifton, New Jersey
Vanessa Vignale, age 22, of Clifton, New Jersey
John Vitasin, age 22, of Clifton, New Jersey

Hackettstown

William Perelli, age 23, of Hackettstown, New Jersey

Hamburg

Philip Solimene, age 27, of Hamburg, New Jersey

Hasbrouck Heights

Tarek Abdelmeguid, age 27, of Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey

Irvington

Abdul Muslim, age 27, of Irvington, New Jersey
Hanifah Muslim, age 46. of Irvington, New Jersey

Jersey City

Tarek Aziz, age 26, of Jersey City, New Jersey
Michael Tafakaji, age 36, of Jersey City, New Jersey

Middlesex

Dominick A. Romano, age 25, of Middlesex, New Jersey

North Haledon

Christopher M. Stisi, age 23, of North Haledon, New Jersey
Peter Sisti III, age 26, of North Haledon

Oakland

Gaetano Mongillo, age 28, of Oakland, New Jersey

Paramus

Weiss Froogh, age 26, of Paramus, New Jersey

Paterson

Justin Angelica, age 27, of Paterson, New Jersey
Mahmoudd Bashir, age 18, of Paterson, New Jersey
Ferhat Hasanaglu, age 24, of Paterson, New Jersey
Alper Karatasun, age 21, of Paterson, New Jersey
Sedat Kukal, age 24, of Paterson, New Jersey
Andrew Mantilla, age 26, of Paterson, New Jersey
Samer Rabboh, age 23, of Paterson, New Jersey
Amen Ramadan, age 31, of Paterson, New Jersey
Rasha Ramadan, age 22, of Paterson, New Jersey

Pompton Plains

Joseph M. DelVecchio, age 24, of Pompton Plains, New Jersey

Riverdale

Artan Reci, age 22, of Riverdale, New Jersey

Totowa

Danielle Mignone, age 23, of Totowa, New Jersey

Verona

Kyle J. MacIntyre, age 21, of Verona, New Jersey

Wayne

Shkelgim Kaba, age 24, of Wayne, New Jersey
Catherine Lemire, age 23, of Wayne, New Jersey
David T. Mele, age 24, of Wayne, New Jersey
Agron Osmani, age 25, of Wayne, New Jersey

As a result of search warrants executed on April 7, 2010, at various residences and automobiles located in the Counties of Passaic, Essex, Hudson, Bergen, and Morris, law enforcement officials recovered: in excess of 2000 prescription pills, \$200,000 and 15 vehicles.

Bail was set by Honorable Marilyn Clark for defendants charged with second degree crimes and higher. The remaining defendants were arraigned by municipal judges in Clifton, Wayne, Pompton Lakes, and North Haledon.

The case is being prosecuted by Chief Assistant Prosecutor Michael DeMarco. The Passaic County Prosecutor's Office and the Clifton Police Department acknowledge and credit the following agencies for their assistance in the investigation: Bergen County Prosecutor's Office, Essex County Prosecutor's Office, Hudson County Prosecutor's Office, North Haledon

Police Department, Pompton Lakes Police Department, Paterson Police Department, Wayne Police Department, Pequannock Police Department, Irvington Police Department, Passaic County Sheriff's Department, Elmwood Park Police Department, Paramus Police Department, Riverdale Police Department, Bloomingdale Police Department, Jersey City Police Department, United States Drug Enforcement Agency, Ringwood Police Department, Totowa Police Department, Passaic Police Department, and Bloomingdale Police Department.

According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, Newark-Division, the 2007 National Study of Drug Use and Health found that 70% of people who abuse prescription pain relievers indicated they got them from friends or relatives, and the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) reports that upwards of 9 million people use prescription medication for non-medical uses.

In New Jersey, the 2009 Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey (PDFNJ) Parents Tracking Survey found that 47% of parents of New Jersey middle school students said they know a little or nearly nothing about prescription drug abuse. This coupled with the fact that 11.1% of young people (12 to 17 years-old) in the United States have used prescription drugs non-medically is a very big concern for all of law enforcement.

This investigation is ongoing. Additional charges and/or arrests may follow. For any further information regarding this investigation, please contact Chief Assistant Prosecutor Michael Demarco, at (973) 837-7656. Criminal complaints and arrests are merely accusations. Despite these accusations, the defendants referenced above are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.