

# Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
3P.M... EDT, July 7, 2009

## **PERSONS ARRESTED IN CHILD CRUELTY CASE**

PATERSON NEW JERSEY, JULY 7, 2009:

On Thursday, July 2, 2009 Passaic County Presiding Criminal Part Judge Marilyn C. Clark signed a warrant authorizing a search of 230 Pacific Street, Paterson, NJ where a minor child is alleged to have participated in a religious ritual. As part of the ritual, believed to have taken place on or about May 15, 2009, the child-- among other things was cut about her body with a sharp instrument. The ritual ended when the child, A.C., witnessed animal sacrifices. All three defendants were arrested on Tuesday, July 7, 2009 after detectives executed the search warrant at 230 Pacific St., Paterson, New Jersey. Detectives seized or documented a number of items that were consistent with A.C.'s description. These include dolls, a shrine, religious statues, artifacts, bones, machetes, and bundles of sticks with numbers and names on them. There also was apparent residual blood and animal hair on some of the items. Defendant Yenitza Colichon was charged with Endangering the Welfare of a Child (second degree) and Cruelty and

Neglect of a Child (fourth degree), defendant Julio Cano (the "Godfather") was charged with Endangering the Welfare of a Child (third degree), and defendant Zahira Cano (the "Godmother") was charged with Endangering the Welfare of a Child (third degree). Bail was set at \$20,000 each for Yenitza Colichon and Julio Cano. Zahira Cano was released on her own recognizance.

A criminal complaint is merely an accusation. Despite this accusation, these defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

**LOCATION:** 230 Pacific St., Paterson New Jersey

**DEFENDANTS:** Yenitza Colichon, Julio Cano (a/k/a "Godfather"), Zahira Cano (a/k/a "Godmother").

**DATE OF ARREST:** July 7, 2009

**BAIL:** Yenitza Colichon (\$20,000), Julio Cano (\$20,000), Zahira Cano (ROR)

**CHARGES:**

- Yenitza Colichon Endangering the Welfare of a Child (second degree) and Cruelty and Neglect of a Child (fourth degree),
- Julio Cano Endangering the Welfare of a Child (third degree),
- Zahira Cano Endangering the Welfare of a Child (third degree).

**INVESTIGATING AGENCIES:** Passaic County Prosecutor's Office Special Victims Unit, Division of Youth and Family Services, Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office Child Abuse Unit, Paterson Police Department, Jamesburg Police Department.