

Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York

Bridget G. Brennan, Special Narcotics Prosecutor

80 Centre Street, Sixth Floor
New York, NY 10013
212-815-0400, Gen
212-815-0440, Fax

**For Immediate Release
December 19, 2015**

Contacts:

Kati Cornell
Special Narcotics Prosecutor's Office
(212) 815-0525

Luis Martinez
ICE HSI New York
(646) 230-3289

Stephen Davis
New York City Police Department
(646) 610-6700

Massive load of cocaine from Massachusetts seized in the Bronx: Over 135 lbs. worth up to \$3 million

Bridget G. Brennan, New York City's Special Narcotics Prosecutor, Raymond R. Parmer, Jr., Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) New York, and New York City Police Commissioner William J. Bratton announced the arrest of two defendants and the seizure of 62 kilograms of cocaine (136 lbs.) worth up to \$3 million.

The two defendants, MARK SOTO and XAVIER HERBERT-GUMBS, were identified as members of a major narcotics trafficking network during the course of an ongoing investigation by the ICE HSI-led Border Enforcement Security Task Force (BEST), including ICE HSI agents and detectives from the New York City Police Department's (NYPD) Organized Crime Investigation Division.

A criminal complaint filed by the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor on Friday evening charges SOTO and HERBERT-GUMBS, with two counts each of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the First and Third Degrees. The defendants were arraigned in Manhattan Criminal Court, where bail was set at \$400,000 cash or \$200,000 bond.

On Thursday, December 17, at approximately 6:15 p.m., agents and detectives stopped a Chevy Tahoe SUV in which HERBERT-GUMBS was a passenger near the intersection of Williamsbridge Road and Pelham Parkway in the Allerton section of the Bronx. Agents and detectives recovered a box from the backseat of the vehicle that contained 50 kilograms (110 lbs.) of cocaine. The cocaine was pressed in brick-shaped packages marked with brand names.

A short time later, at approximately 7:10 p.m. near the intersection of Corlear Avenue and West 231st Street in the Kingsbridge section of the Bronx, agents and detectives saw SOTO exit a Hyundai rental car bearing Massachusetts license plates and remove a military bag with his name on it from the trunk. Also inside the trunk was a partially opened box that appeared to contain multiple kilograms of cocaine. Agents and detectives recovered approximately 12 kilograms (26 lbs.) from inside this box. Also inside the trunk of SOTO's vehicle was a bag containing an identification card with HERBERT-GUMBS' name and photograph.

The investigation, which is continuing, revealed that the defendants transported the 62 kilograms of cocaine from Massachusetts.

Information developed as a result of the arrests led the Special Narcotics Prosecutor's Office to obtain a court authorized search warrant for 3120 Corlear Avenue, Apt. 508, on the same block where SOTO was stopped. On Friday evening, agents and detectives seized \$6,000 in a black plastic bag from inside the apartment, as well as a U-Haul equipment contract in the name of "Mark Gomez," an alias used by SOTO.

Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan thanked her office's Special Investigations Bureau and the ICE HSI-led Border Enforcement Security Task Force, which is comprised of agents, detectives and investigators from ICE HSI, the NYPD, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) New York Division, the Waterfront Commission of New York Harbor (WCNYH) and the U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service (CGIS).

DEFENDANTS	CHARGES
Mark A. Soto Rio Grande, Puerto Rico 01/05/1992	CPCS 1 st – 2 cts CPCS 3 rd – 2 cts
Xavier T. Herbert-Gumbs San Juan, Puerto Rico 02/10/1991	CPCS 1 st – 2 cts CPCS 3 rd – 2 cts

The charges and allegations are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.