

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

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Eight kilos of cocaine seized from drug stash house in Jackson Heights, Queens: Two traffickers indicted

BRIDGET G. BRENNAN, New York City's Special Narcotics Prosecutor, and JOSEPH A. D'AMICO, Superintendent of the New York State Police, announced today the arrests and indictment of two drug traffickers and the seizure of over eight kilograms (18 lbs.) of cocaine, nearly \$70,000 in cash and an array of drug packaging equipment as the result of a short-term investigation. The bulk of the drugs were hidden inside a dresser outfitted with a secret "trap" and in an oven.

Two indictments unsealed today charge WILMAR FLOREZ-JIMENEZ and ALVARO MONTOYA with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the first and third degrees and Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia in the second degree. Both men were arrested on May 14th and are scheduled to be arraigned on the indictments today before Judge Laura Ward in Manhattan Supreme Court, Part 23.

Investigators with the New York State Police (NYSP) Special Investigations Unit were conducting surveillance at 30-15 81st Street in Jackson Heights, Queens when they observed MONTOYA haul a large plastic garbage bag out of the building and place it in a red Chevy Envoy SUV at approximately 1:20 p.m. on May 14th. MONTOYA drove away in the SUV and investigators followed.

Investigators stopped MONTOYA a short time later and conducted a search of his vehicle. Inside the garbage bag was a tire rim with a portion of tire attached. The side wall had been cut and the tire tread was disconnected from the rim. Inside the tire, small towels and plastic tie wraps were glued to the underside of the tread indicating where the kilos were secured to the tire. Investigators were aware of the practice of concealing bulk quantities of narcotics which were covered with toweling and concealed inside tires.

Shortly thereafter, investigators stopped FLOREZ-JIMENEZ, whom they had previously surveilled as part of the investigation, as he exited 30-15 81st Street. They recovered a small quantity of cocaine from him, as well as keys to his ground-level apartment at 30-15 81st Street. Pursuant to a court authorized warrant, investigators searched the apartment and found over six kilograms of cocaine in a specially designed "trap", or hidden compartment, inside a dresser with a false back. The search uncovered another two kilograms of cocaine inside an oven and \$68,000 in cash in the bedroom. Small pieces of towel that had been cut from the rim and tire were also recovered.

A wide array of drug packaging equipment and materials were scattered around the apartment, including substances used to dilute the cocaine, a digital scale, a steel press, grinders, respirators, baggies, knives and razors. Investigators also seized financial records belonging to FLOREZ-JIMENEZ, computer equipment and numerous cell phones.

Subsequently, on May 16th, investigators conducted a second and more thorough search of the Chevy Envoy, which had been stored at an NYSP facility. The third seat at the rear of the vehicle had been folded down and approximately half a pound of cocaine was hidden underneath.

INDICTED DEFENDANTS	CHARGES
Wilmar Florez-Jimenez 12/05/1981 30-15 81 st Street Queens, NY	CPCS 1 st – 1 ct CPCS 3 rd – 2 cts Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia 2 nd – 1 ct Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia 2 nd – 1 ct
Alvaro Montoya 2/7/1961 820 Canton Street Elizabeth, NJ	CPCS 1 st – 2 ct CPCS 3 rd – 2 cts Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia 2 nd – 1 ct Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia 2 nd – 1 ct

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