

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

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Six drug traffickers indicted: Over 100 pounds of cocaine seized near Times Square

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 indictment of six drug traffickers on charges stemming from the seizure of 48 kilograms of cocaine (approximately 105 lbs.) the evening of Thursday, October 25. The drugs contained in three suitcases were removed from a concourse area inside the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Times Square and two vehicles in Midtown Manhattan.

The indictment charges the six defendants with Conspiracy in the Second Degree and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the First and Third Degrees. Arraignments for five of the six defendants are scheduled to take place in Manhattan Supreme Court, Part 23, beginning this morning.

The six defendants were arrested between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. on October 25 as investigators with the New York State Police Special Investigations Unit (NYSP SIU) conducted surveillance in the vicinity of the Crowne Plaza Hotel at 1605 Broadway as part of an ongoing investigation. FERNANDO ALVARADO was observed exiting the hotel with a suitcase and placing it inside the trunk of a silver BMW. ALVARADO then climbed into the front passenger seat and the car drove off. A short time later, a second defendant, LUIS CUEVAS-MUNIZ, emerged from the Crowne Plaza carrying another suitcase and entered a parked livery cab, which drove off.

Investigators followed both cars. CUEVAS-MUNIZ was observed exiting the livery cab a block away without the suitcase and heading back in the direction of the hotel on foot. Investigators stopped the livery cab near the intersection of 57th Street and 8th Avenue and recovered a suitcase containing approximately 4 kilos (more than 8 lbs.) of cocaine. The driver, ROBERTO ALVAREZ, was taken into custody by NYSP SIU investigators.

Subsequently, investigators stopped the BMW near 50th Street and 6th Avenue and recovered a suitcase containing approximately 14 kilos (over 30 lbs.) of cocaine. ALVARADO and the driver, GERINERDO HERNANDEZ, were arrested.

Meanwhile, an NYSP investigator returned to the Crowne Plaza and spotted CUEVAS-MUNIZ with another suitcase talking to a second individual in a concourse area of the hotel. Two uniformed NYPD

officers assisted in arresting CUEVAS-MUNIZ and seized the suitcase containing approximately 30 kilos (66 lbs.) of cocaine. The second individual fled and has not been apprehended.

Investigators identified the hotel room where the drug traffickers had been staying and arrested two additional defendants KALEB ALTIERY-VAZQUEZ and JUAN ALVERIO-RUIZ inside the room, recovering plastic wrappings used to cover kilos of narcotics, multiple plane tickets in the defendants' names and cell phones. The plane tickets and other evidence indicate members of the group had travelled from San Juan, P.R. to White Plains, N.Y. with a stop in Orlando, Fla.

ALTIERY-VAQUEZ, ALVARADO, CUEVAS-MUNIZ, HERNANDEZ and ALVERIO-RUIZ are scheduled for arraignment this morning. ALVAREZ is scheduled for arraignment on Monday, December 3.

INDICTED DEFENDANTS	CHARGES
Kaleb Altiery-Vazquez 2/13/90 Winston Salem, NC	Conspiracy 2nd – 1 ct CPCS 1st – 1 ct CPCS 3rd – 1 ct
Fernando Alvarado 6/9/1990 Fajardo, Puerto Rico	Conspiracy 2nd – 1 ct CPCS 1st – 1 ct CPCS 3rd – 1 ct
Roberto Alvarez 1/19/1976 1249 Washington Ave Bronx, NY	Conspiracy 2nd – 1 ct CPCS 1st – 1 ct CPCS 3rd – 1 ct
Luis Cuevas-Muniz 7/01/1988 Tao Baja, Puerto Rico	Conspiracy 2nd – 1 ct CPCS 1st – 1 ct CPCS 3rd – 1 ct
Gerinerdo Hernandez 4/30/1979 1021. St John Ave., Apt. 5D Bronx, NY	Conspiracy 2nd – 1 ct CPCS 1st – 1 ct CPCS 3rd – 1 ct
Juan Alverio-Ruiz 7/09/1962 Tao Baja, Puerto Rico	Conspiracy 2nd – 1 ct CPCS 1st – 1 ct CPCS 3rd – 1 ct

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