



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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**\$1 MILLION IN HEROIN SEIZED FROM BRONX MILL: FOUR MEMBERS OF  
DRUG TRAFFICKING RING ARRESTED**

New York City Special Narcotics Prosecutor BRIDGET G. BRENNAN, New York City Police Commissioner RAYMOND W. KELLY and JOHN P. GILBRIDE, Special Agent-in-Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration, New York Field Division, announced today the arrests of 4 individuals in connection with an extensive investigation into a major heroin trafficking operation in The Bronx. During a court authorized search of an apartment at 2112 Starling Avenue, investigators seized 7 kilos of heroin worth approximately \$1 million.

The heroin had been packaged into 50,000 user-ready envelopes, or "glassines," inside the apartment, which served as a "mill" for processing the drug. This is one of many significant heroin seizures in the city over the past nine months, including a search that netted a quarter of a million glassines in July. The Bronx ring had 50 different stamps for branding the glassines with different names, including "Almighty," "Heat Wave," "Maserati" and "Body Bag." Cardboard boxes of empty glassines, scales, and coffee grinders used for cutting the heroin were also seized, among other paraphernalia.

The operation was spearheaded by the NYPD's Bronx Narcotics Major Case Squad and the Drug Enforcement Administration. The Special Narcotics Prosecutor's Office obtained the search warrant on Wednesday evening. During the course of probe, police identified LUIS LARA, 28, as a manager of the drug trafficking organization. LARA was observed travelling to both JFK Airport and Newark Liberty International Airport on Sunday and then returning to The Bronx. He was arrested yesterday as he climbed into a livery car on Castle Hill Avenue along with two other defendants who worked in the mill. A fourth man, JOSE POLO, 28, was stopped as he left the apartment building with a backpack that contained approximately 3,000 glassines of heroin.

The four defendants are expected to be arraigned on criminal complaints later today. The top charge, criminal possession of a controlled substance in the first degree, carries a maximum 20-year sentence.

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

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