



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

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Bridget G. Brennan, Special Narcotics Prosecutor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 11, 2010

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**HEROIN MILL DISMANTLED IN THEATER DISTRICT: 28 POUNDS OF
DRUGS WORTH \$6.5 MILLION SEIZED**

BRIDGET G. BRENNAN, New York City's Special Narcotics Prosecutor, and JOHN P. GILBRIDE, Special Agent in Charge of the New York Field Division of the Drug Enforcement Administration, New York City Police Commissioner RAYMOND W. KELLY and New York State Police Acting Superintendent JOHN P. MELVILLE announced today the seizure of 13 kilograms of heroin worth approximately \$6.5 million and the arrests of 4 individuals at an apartment building located at 417 W. 43th Street in Manhattan.

As a result of a long-term investigation, the NY Drug Enforcement Task Force set up surveillance outside the apartment building two blocks from Times Square over the past several days. Yesterday afternoon, investigators observed an individual exit the apartment building with a large plastic garbage bag and place it in a black BMW. The driver of the car attempted to speed off as investigators identified themselves and approached the car. His escape was blocked by traffic at the corner of 43rd Street and 10th Avenue and investigators arrested the driver. A garbage bag in the car contained refuse from heroin production, including damaged "glassine" envelopes and other packaging material.

Investigators from the Special Narcotics Prosecutor's Office and members of Task Force team proceeded inside the apartment building to secure the heroin mill.

Surprised mill workers had been busily packing heroin into user-ready “glassine” envelopes in the ground-floor, duplex apartment. Two workers tried to escape, leaving behind at least 250,000 glassines, much of it wrapped into bundles shrouded in glossy magazine paper. Each glassines sells for at least \$10 on the street.

Piles of loose heroin and assorted drug packaging paraphernalia sat on tables where the defendants had been working assembly line-style. Several coffee grinders used to cut the drug with a diluting substance rested on the floor nearby. Many of the glassines were already stamped with the brand names “King Kong” and “95 South,” a reference to the interstate highway easily accessible through the nearby Lincoln Tunnel.

One worker was arrested inside the apartment, while the two others tried to escape by slipping out a back door. Investigators found the pair huddled in a recessed doorway in a concrete courtyard. Pursuant to a search warrant, agents recovered 13 kilograms (28.6 pounds) of heroin and an undetermined amount of bundled cash. An additional 50 stamps used to brand the heroin with dozens of different names were also seized, along with thousands of empty glassine envelopes waiting to be filled. The drug ring occupied the newly renovated apartment, which rents for \$3,800 per month, for approximately two weeks.

Special Narcotics Prosecutor BRIDGET G. BRENNAN stated, “This seizure is the result of superb investigative work that led to the discovery of a booming heroin mill in a completely unexpected location, just blocks from Times Square. If our investigators were surprised by the location, you can only imagine the shock of neighbors, commuters and theater goers when they learned of the huge criminal enterprise operating inside. Residents of the city can take comfort in knowing their safety is being protected by skilled, vigilant investigators.”

DEA Special Agent in Charge JOHN P. GILBRIDE stated, “Heroin trafficking in the New York City area continues to rise and pose significant health and safety concerns for the public. This heroin distribution mill in the heart of Manhattan, pushing out “Jersey Boys” and “Cats & Dogs” branded heroin, underscores the drug traffickers’ determination to pump their poison onto the streets of New York City and beyond. This seizure has taken over six million dollars worth of heroin out of the drug traffickers’ pipeline.”

MR. GILBRIDE praised the outstanding investigative work of the DEA’s New York Drug Enforcement Task Force Group T-41-- which is comprised of agents and officers of the DEA, the New York Police Department, and the New York State Police. He also expressed gratitude to Investigators of the New York City Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor.

The four defendants are expected to be arraigned later today at Manhattan Criminal Court today on charges of criminal possession of a controlled substance in the first degree.

DEFENDANTS	CHARGES
Gregorio Antonio Conce 9/3/1963 2437 Morgan Ave., Bronx	CPCS 1 st degree – 1 ct.
Johnny Oscar Heredia 9/6/1960 723 W. 177 th St., apt. 1D	CPCS 1 st degree – 1 ct.
Juan Hernandez 4/19/1963 603 W. 138 th St., apt. 2	CPCS 1 st degree – 1 ct.
Luz Liriano 3/3/1976 570 W. 182 nd St., apt. 2D	CPCS 1 st degree – 1 ct.

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