



**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

Press Release

Monday, November 20, 2006

Magda Gandasegui, Director of Public Information

mgandasegui@specnarc.org

(212) 815-0525

MAJOR HEROIN SUPPLIER CONVICTED OF TOP NARCOTICS CRIMES

New York City Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan today announced the conviction by trial of Ricardo Calderon, a Queens-based narcotics trafficker who directed the delivery of kilogram amounts of heroin to criminal organizations in the city and surrounding counties. The defendant was convicted on all counts: Conspiracy in the Second Degree, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 1st Degree and Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the 1st Degree.

Calderon was part of a group indicted by the office on January 20, 2005 for participation in a yearlong narcotics conspiracy which took delivery of several kilograms of heroin each month from swallowers coming from Puerto Rico and South America. Six have already been convicted. The wire tap investigation recorded a kilogram heroin sale conducted by Calderon to Norberto Yepes. Yepes in turn supplied Ruben Acosta, the head of a heroin operation with locations in the Bronx, Upper Manhattan and Maspeth, Queens. The Acosta organization provided haven for heroin smugglers and heroin swallowers coming into the city, cut and packaged the heroin, and distributed the narcotics to dealers in the Bronx, Queens and Westchester counties. Illicit narcotics proceeds were sent to the Dominican Republic and Colombia.

Calderon was detained in Maspeth, Queens on June 16, 2004 after he sold the heroin to Yepes. At the time of his arrest, agents recovered \$57,500. The prosecution was the culmination of a long-term investigation with the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force that identified three separate echelons of the heroin distribution network. In addition to the money recovered, five kilograms of heroin, a loaded .38 revolver and a 9mm pistol, scales, presses and other drug paraphernalia were recovered during the investigation.

Calderon, who faces a prison term of 8 to 20 years, is scheduled to be sentenced on December 11, 2006, by Judge William A. Wetzel.

Those already convicted include: Ricardo Calderon, Ruben Acosta, a/k/a Moacho, Georgina Pineda, a/k/a Gina, Rainy Acosta, Madeline De La Hoz, Arlene De La Hoz and Leonardo Santana-Pinera.