



PRESS RELEASE

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Emmanuel Avila, 35, Beloit, Wis., was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 30 months in federal prison for conspiracy to distribute cocaine. Avila pleaded guilty to this charge on August 15, 2008.

Beginning on March 15, 2008, agents intercepted text messages, pursuant to a court authorized wiretap of Fidel Holguin's telephones, between Holguin and the defendant regarding the sale of cocaine. The defendant, working as a middleman, contacted Holguin to broker the purchase of one-quarter kilogram of cocaine for another individual. On April 4, 2008, Holguin contacted the defendant to complete the sale. Law enforcement agents observed Holguin drive to the defendant's residence and complete the deal.

The charges against Avila were the result of an investigation conducted by the Rock County Safe Streets Task Force. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney David J. Reinhard.

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