



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
District of Maryland



Rod J. Rosenstein
United States Attorney

36 South Charles Street
4th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

410-209-4800
TTY/TDD: 410-962-4462
410-209-4885
FAX 410-962-3091

Vickie E. LeDuc
Public Information Officer

Vickie.LeDuc@usdoj.gov

December 15, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/md>

**CONTACT AUSA VICKIE E. LEDUC or
MARCIA MURPHY at (410) 209-4885**

FELON IN POSSESSION SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON

Defendant Sold Cocaine, Unregistered Shotgun and Ammunition

Greenbelt, Maryland - U.S. District Judge Deborah K. Chasanow sentenced Edwin Alvanez, age 21, of Hyattsville, Maryland, today to 15 years in prison followed by three years of supervised release for possession of an unregistered short-barreled shotgun and being a felon in possession of a firearm, announced United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein.

According to his guilty plea, on October 17, 2006 Alvanez provided ammunition for an unregistered short-barreled shotgun which he and a co-defendant sold to an ATF informant. The shotgun had a barrel length of less than 18 inches and thus, was subject to National Firearm Act restrictions and registration. On February 15, 2007, Alvanez agreed to sell seven grams of crack cocaine for \$300 to the same informant. A short time later co-defendant Richard Mejia delivered the cocaine to the informant and collected the payment.

On March 20, 2007, Prince George's County Police Department (PGPD) officers saw Alvanez driving in Hyattsville, Maryland and attempted to pull him over for not wearing his seatbelt. Alvanez eventually pulled over, fled from the vehicle, broke into and ran through an apartment into an unlocked unit, where the resident pointed him out to pursuing officers. Alvanez was arrested. Officers recovered a loaded Smith & Wesson .40 caliber semi-automatic firearm with an obliterated serial number from his vehicle.

On April 20, 2007, a PGPD officer attempted to stop Alvanez for driving with a suspended license after he saw him driving near Adelphi, Maryland. Alvanez drove away, wrecked the vehicle into a tree, and then fled on foot. He was arrested near a 6-foot fence. Officers found 6.5 grams of crack cocaine in a baggie in his mouth, and a loaded 9mm semi automatic handgun from the area of the fence. Alvanez had been previously convicted of conspiracy to distribute cocaine in Prince George's County Circuit Court and was prohibited from possessing a firearm.

On April 7, 2008, Judge Chasanow sentenced Richard Mejia, age 23, of Hyattsville, Maryland, to 70 months in prison, followed by five years of supervised release for conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Last week, Judge Chasanow sentenced co-defendant Luis Gonzalez, age 22, of Silver Spring,

Maryland, to 126 months in prison followed by five years of supervised release for possession of an unregistered short-barreled shotgun and distributing cocaine base,

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein thanked the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Prince George's County Police Department for their investigative work, and commended Assistant United States Attorneys James M. Trusty and Stacy Dawson Belf, who prosecuted the case.