



U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

DISTRICTS OF GUAM AND THE NMI
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FEDERAL GRAND JURY INDICTS MATEO B. SARDOMA, JR. AND NINE OTHER CO-CONSPIRATORS ON FEDERAL NARCOTIC CHARGES

(Hagatna, Guam), **ALICIA A.G. LIMTIACO**, United States Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, announced the issuance of a 26-Count Indictment against Mateo B. Sardoma, Jr. for Continuing Criminal Enterprise. Mateo B. Sardoma, Jr. and nine other members of his narcotics organization were indicted on February 15, 2012, for Conspiracy to Distribute over 50 grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride. Sardoma and two others in his organization are indicted for using, carrying and possessing a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime. The indictment charges 22 firearm related charges relating primarily to convicted felons carrying firearms, 18 of which are against Rudy P.H. Sablan, and two of which are against Mateo Sardoma. The nine additional co-conspirators include Rudy P.H. Sablan, Maria C. Edrosa aka Christina, Christopher A.D. Mesa aka Bobat, Walter Duenas, Sylvia Mashburn Duenas, Eduardo V. Lake aka Yob, Anthony Aro Villanueva aka Brando aka Nunoy, Joseph N. Caballero aka Beng, and Elizabeth F.L. Aguon.

The indictment alleges a scheme to bring methamphetamine to Guam from the Philippines and California. It is alleged that methamphetamine was traded for firearms, stolen items and for cash. The indictment alleges that large amounts of cash were mailed to California including \$35,000 on March 24, 2011 and \$59,900 sent again on April 18, 2011. Sardoma allegedly made improvements to his Dededo residence between April and June of 2011 in cash payments to the contractor of approximately \$53,340.

The indictment alleges that the conspiracy used force, harassment and firearms to maintain control of the methamphetamine organization, even to the extent of a kidnapping, torture and brutal assault of one victim on October 24 and 25, 2011.

Continuing Criminal Enterprise carries a minimum sentence of 20 years in prison to a maximum prison term of life and a two million dollar fine. The Conspiracy to distribute over 50 grams of methamphetamine has a minimum sentence of 10 years in prison and a maximum prison term of life and a 10 million dollar fine. Carrying and using a firearm during a drug trafficking crime carries a consecutive seven year prison sentence to be added on to the other convictions. The possession of a Firearm or Ammunition by a convicted felon and other firearm charges carry a 10 year maximum prison term.

This is an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) case. This OCDETF investigation was named "Fili-Islander" in which the following agencies are participants in the investigation: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Department of Homeland Security/U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE)-Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service (USCGIS), U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), Guam Police Department (GPD) and Guam Customs & Quarantine Agency (GC&QA). Assistant United States Attorney, Frederick Black is assigned to prosecute this case.

Members of the public are reminded that an Indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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