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**PDL BLOODS GANG MEMBER EXILED TO 24 YEARS IN PRISON AFTER
PLEADING GUILTY TO FEDERAL RACKETEERING CONSPIRACY**

Baltimore, Maryland – U.S. District Judge William D. Quarles, Jr. sentenced Emiliano Aguas, age 33, of Baltimore, to 24 years in prison, followed by five years of supervised release, after Aguas pleaded guilty today to conspiracy to conduct and participate in the racketeering enterprise activities of the Pasadena Denver Lanes Bloods gang (PDL Bloods).

The sentence and guilty plea were announced United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein; Baltimore City State's Attorney Patricia C. Jessamy; Special Agent in Charge Theresa R. Stoop of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives - Baltimore Field Division; and Baltimore Police Commissioner Frederick H. Bealefeld III.

According to his plea agreement, Aguas is a leader of PDL Bloods, a violent gang with members operating in Baltimore. PDL Bloods originated from a street gang known as "the Bloods" that was formed in Los Angeles, California in the early 1970s. As time passed, the Bloods spread to other locations and broke into individual "sets." One such Bloods set based in southern California was called Pasadena Denver Lanes. The PDL Bloods gang members conspired to engage in criminal activity, including attempted murders, assaults, robberies and drug trafficking, from at least January 2008 to the present.

Aguas directed PDL Bloods to sell heroin and crack cocaine to other gang members. Aguas also participated in gang sanctions and other violence against PDL members for perceived disobedience. Aguas was responsible for possession of firearms and the distribution of approximately one to three pounds of crack cocaine and between 6.5 and 30 pounds of heroin by the conspiracy.

United States Attorney Rosenstein and Baltimore City State's Attorney Jessamy expressed their appreciation to Secretary Gary D. Maynard and the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services for their assistance in the investigation.

Mr. Rosenstein and Mrs. Jessamy also thanked Assistant U.S. Attorney Kwame J. Manley and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Traci Robinson, a cross-designated Baltimore City Assistant State's Attorney assigned to EXILE cases, who are prosecuting the RICO conspiracy case, and Baltimore City Assistant State's Attorneys Staci Pipkin and Brandis Marsh, who assisted in the prosecution.