



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**TRAFFICKER CHARGED WITH TRANSPORTING AT LEAST
200 TONS OF COCAINE ARRIVES IN NEW YORK**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that GILBERTO SALINAS DORIA arrived in New York yesterday evening after being extradited from Mexico on federal charges of transporting at least 200 tons of cocaine to the United States. According to the Indictment filed in Manhattan federal court:

From about 1994 through February 1999, SALINAS DORIA, 49, received at least 200 tons of cocaine from co-defendants ALCIDES RAMON MAGANA and JESUS ALBINO QUINTERO MERAZ, in the areas of Playa del Carmen, Quintano Roo, Mexico and Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico. As a part of a larger narcotics trafficking conspiracy, SALINAS DORIA arranged for the transportation and delivery of the cocaine to co-conspirators in Manhattan and other cities in the United States.

In connection with the cocaine trafficking activity, RAMON MAGANA and QUINTERO MERAZ arranged to make payments to a third co-defendant, MARIO ERNESTO VILLANUEVA MADRID, who was then the Governor of the State of Quintana Roo. Specifically, during the period from about 1994 through at least December 1996, RAMON MAGANA arranged to pay VILLANUEVA MADRID approximately \$500,000 in United States currency for each shipment of cocaine that RAMON MAGANA transported through Quintana Roo.

SALINAS DORIA is charged with one count of conspiracy to import cocaine into the United States, and one count of conspiracy to distribute cocaine and possess cocaine with intent to distribute. If convicted, SALINAS DORIA faces on each count a maximum sentence of life in prison and a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison.

SALINAS DORIA will be presented before a United States Magistrate Judge in Manhattan federal court at a later date.

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative efforts of the Drug Enforcement Agency's New York Drug Enforcement Task Force, which includes agents and officers of the Drug Enforcement Agency ("DEA), New York City Police Department, and New York State Police, and the DEA's Mexico City Country Office and Merida Regional Office. Mr. GARCIA thanked the United States Marshal's Service for its work in effectuating the extradition. Mr. GARCIA also expressed his gratitude to the Mexican Attorney General's Office for its cooperation in the investigation.

ANIRUDH BANSAL and REBECCA MONCK are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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