

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Six Men Facing Life In Prison For Conspiracy To Possess Cocaine With Intent To Distribute

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ST. THOMAS -- The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) today arrested six men from the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico on a criminal complaint charging them with conspiracy to possess cocaine with intent to distribute, United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe announced.

Three Dominican nationals, Alexandro Gerandino-Aracena, 39, Marco Asala, 35, and Pedro Antion Beltre Guzman, 36, and three men from Puerto Rico, Ricardo Cardona, 35, Wilfredo Perez, 30, and Jose Luis Ponce, 36, made their initial appearance today before U.S. Magistrate Judge Ruth Miller. Judge Miller remanded the men into the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service pending a preliminary and detention hearing on September 8,

2015.

According to the complaint, the men conspired to possess more than five kilograms of cocaine. The maximum sentence for conspiracy to possess cocaine with intent to distribute is life in prison and a fine of \$50 million.

United States Attorney Sharpe reminds the public that a complaint is merely a formal charging document and is not evidence of guilt. Every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

This case is the result of a joint investigation by the DEA, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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