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Florida Woman Facing 5 Years For Bringing Marijuana Into St. Croix Pleads Guilty

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Aerial view of the Henry E. Rohlsen Airpoeto on St. Croix. By. V.I. PORT AUTHORITY

ST. CROIX — United States Attorney Gretchen C.F. Shappert announced Friday that Yvette Simeina, 40, a resident of Orlando, Florida, pleaded guilty in federal court to possession with intent to distribute approximately 6 kilograms of marijuana.

According to court documents, on February 23, 2021, Simeina flew into St. Croix on American Airlines flight #382 from Miami, Florida. Upon her arrival, the defendant's luggage was selected for physical inspection after an anomaly was detected while the luggage was examined utilizing an x-ray machine. The physical hand-search of the defendant's luggage revealed three wooden boxes, inside of which were several clear vacuum-sealed bags with a green leafy substance, which

later field-tested positive for marijuana, a Schedule I controlled substance. The total weight of the marijuana seized from the defendant's luggage was 6.63 kilograms.

Simeina faces up to 5 years imprisonment. A sentencing date of March 22, 2022 has been set by the Court.

This case is being investigated by Homeland Security Investigations and U.S. Customs and Border Patrol and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Evan Rikhye.

This effort is part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) operation. OCDETF identifies, disrupts, and dismantles the highest-level criminal organizations that threaten the United States using a prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency approach. Additional information about the OCDETF Program can be found at <https://www.justice.gov/OCDETF>.

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