

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Federal Grand Jury Indicts 41 People in Connection With \$58 Million Puerto Rico Drug Trafficking Operation

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Forty-one individuals in Puerto Rico were indicted last week by a federal grand jury for allegedly smuggling drugs to the U.S. mainland as part of a \$58 million operation.

According to Joseph González, special agent in charge of the FBI in San Juan, those arrested are suspected gang members including several of Puerto Rico's suspected drug trafficking leaders. Mr. González said the suspects are accused of shipping drugs to the U.S. mainland that arrived from ships inbound from Venezuela and the Dominican Republic.

The suspects are also accused of trafficking prescription pills and crack, among other controlled substances in the proximity of various public housing communities in San Juan for at least six years.

According to the Associated Press, three of the 41 suspects are accused of money laundering, including buying cars with revenue from the alleged drug sales.

Authorities said the suspects would prepare the drugs in abandoned apartments in public housing units and stash them in properties using rental applications like AirBnb, according to the AP.