

Three plead guilty to distributing heroin and fentanyl in Taunton and Boston

Two Dominican nationals and a Taunton woman pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court in Boston to their roles in a heroin and fentanyl trafficking organization that operated in Taunton and Boston.

Wilmi Hernandez-Diaz, 22, and Jancer Soto, 26, both Dominican nationals residing in Boston, and Stephanie O'Sullivan, 31, of Taunton, each pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute heroin and fentanyl. In February 2017, Hernandez-Diaz, Soto, and O'Sullivan were arrested and charged along with 20 other co-defendants. U.S. District Court Judge Indira Talwani scheduled the sentencings for Soto and Hernandez-Diaz for Jan. 3, 2018, and Jan 11, 2018, respectively. U.S. District Court Judge Leo T Sorokin scheduled sentencing for O'Sullivan for Jan. 11, 2018.

From mid-2016 through February 2017, federal law enforcement investigated two drug trafficking organizations operating in Taunton and Boston led by Jose Antonio Lugo-Guerrero, 32, a Dominican national operating in Boston, and Fernando Hernandez, 42, a Dominican national residing in Providence, R.I. Hernandez allegedly ran a heroin and fentanyl trafficking organization in Taunton. The organization sold heroin and fentanyl to customers, including O'Sullivan, who re-distributed a portion of the drugs she obtained. It is alleged that Hernandez obtained drugs from a network of suppliers that included Lugo-Guerrero.

Lugo-Guerrero allegedly operated a drug trafficking organization in Fall River and Boston and was assisted by Hernandez-Diaz, Soto, and approximately six others. It is further alleged that Lugo-Guerrero and his associates obtained a significant quantity of illegal drugs by robbing other drug traffickers.

Hernandez and Lugo-Guerrero each pleaded not guilty and are awaiting trial.

The conspiracy charge provides for a sentence of no greater than 20 years in prison, a minimum of three years and up to a lifetime of supervised release, and a fine of \$1 million. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.