

Fourteen Arrested on Drug Charges, Accused of Distributing Cocaine and Marijuana

Drug Ring Operated Out of Auto Repair Shop

Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Attorney's Office
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WASHINGTON—Fourteen people were taken into custody this week on charges that they were part of a ring based out of an automotive repair shop that distributed cocaine and marijuana in the Washington D.C. area and other parts of the nation, announced U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr., James W. McJunkin, Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI's Washington Field Office, and Cathy L. Lanier, Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department.

The arrests took place on December 5 and December 6, 2010, in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, Texas, and West Virginia. In addition, in two days of coordinated law enforcement actions concluding today, authorities conducted searches in those locations, as well as in North Carolina. Narcotics, weapons, and vehicles were seized at the various locations.

The defendants include:

Names are concealed to protect the attorney-client privilege.

All are charged with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine and marijuana. [REDACTED] also is charged with two counts each of unlawful distribution of marijuana and unlawful distribution of cocaine. According to the indictment, which was unsealed this week in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, the drug activities took place this year in the District of Columbia, the states of Maryland, North Carolina, Texas, West Virginia, and elsewhere. The center of the operation was the auto repair shop run by [REDACTED] in Clinton, Md.

The investigation was conducted by the FBI's Washington Field Office and the MPD. Assistant U.S. Attorney Cassidy Pinegar is prosecuting the case.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of criminal laws and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.