

Toronto Police Service
News release



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10 arrested in major drug operation

Broadcast time: 14:26

Friday, July 15, 2005

Toronto Drug Squad

416-808-6100

In December 2003, the Toronto Police Service Drug Squad, Major Project Section, began an investigation named Project "Prestige."

It centred on an organization allegedly importing cocaine from the United States and distributing it between Toronto and Montreal.

In January 2005, the Toronto Police Service, in partnership with the York Regional Police's Drugs and Vice Enforcement Unit, Canada Border Services Agency and Criminal Intelligence Service of Ontario (C.I.S.O.), continued the investigation. The assistance of the Montreal Urban Police Anti-Gang Unit was requested to support the Toronto investigation.

It's alleged that:

- the primary method of cocaine importation into Canada was by concealing it within the tractor-trailers driven by people employed by the organization.
- to avoid detection they would use several trucks and enter Canada through different border points.
- a tractor-trailer was stopped and inspected by the Canada Border Services Agency at the Canada-United States border crossing in Phillipsburg, Quebec.
- located concealed in the cab of the truck were 14 kilos of cocaine.
- the diversity of this organization was evident as a kilo of methamphetamine was seized in a transaction between subjects from Toronto and Montreal.
- they were also involved in setting up marijuana grow-operations in both Ontario and Quebec.

It's further alleged that:

- the investigation also revealed a network of fraudulent activity where credit cards were compromised in the Montreal area.

– the numbers were relayed to subjects in Toronto who produced fraudulent cards and subsequently used them in the GTA to commit frauds. Police were successful in seizing numerous credit card numbers, which averted a potential loss of more than \$1.5 million.

On Wednesday, July 13, 2005, a series of Conspiracy search warrants were executed on addresses in the Greater Toronto Area and in Montreal, resulting in the arrest of 10 people.

Appearance details for all those arrested have not been finalized but five are scheduled to appear in court at Old City Hall, Room 103, at 10 a.m. on Monday, July 18, 2005.

The following people were arrested:

Ali, NIROUMAND–RAD, 30, Grimsby
Traffic in Cocaine x 5
Traffic in Methamphetamine
Possession of Cocaine
Possession of Cocaine for the Purpose of Trafficking
Conspiracy to Traffic Cocaine

Sara VILLELLA, 26, Grimsby
Traffic Cocaine x 2
Traffic in Methamphetamine
Possession of Cocaine for the Purpose of Trafficking
Fail to Comply with Recognizance
Conspiracy to traffic Cocaine

Hamid PASHA, 45, Richmond Hill
Conspiracy to Import Cocaine
Conspiracy to Traffic Cocaine

Gil GOODY, 42, Toronto
Conspiracy to Traffic Cocaine x 2

Amir RAZMARA, 35, Montreal
Conspiracy to Import Cocaine
Conspiracy to Traffic Cocaine x 2

Javad NOZARIAN, 47, Montreal
Conspiracy to Traffic Cocaine
Conspiracy to Traffic Marijuana
Possession of Heroin for the Purpose of Trafficking
Possession of Property Obtained by Crime

Davoud NOROOZI, 23, Montreal
Conspiracy to Traffic Cocaine
Conspiracy to Traffic Marijuana
Fraudulently Traffic in Credit Cards x 5

Possess Fraudulent Credit Cards x 4

Ali NOROOZI, 23, Montreal
Conspiracy to Traffic Cocaine
Conspiracy to Traffic Marijuana
Possession of Heroin for the Purpose of Trafficking
Possession of Property Obtained by Crime

Khalil TAVENGARI, 51, Richmond Hill
Possession of Opium

Hilda LALEHZAR, 51, Montreal
Possession of Heroin for the Purpose of Trafficking
Possession of Property Obtained by Crime

Seizures:

14 kilos of cocaine (street value \$1,400,000)
1 kilo of methamphetamine (street value \$150,000)
\$1,400 (Canadian)
\$65,000 (U.S.)
1 Tractor/Trailer (value \$35,000)
Fraudulent Property (value \$30,000)

For further information, please contact Detective Sergeant Bill Neadles, Toronto Drug Squad, Major Project Section, at 416-808-6131 or Inspector Mike Fleming, York Regional Police, at 905-830-0303.

Constable Kristine Bacharach, Corporate Communications, for Acting Staff Inspector Bill Ellison, Toronto Drug Squad