



## **U.S. Department of Justice**

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February 24, 2006

### **PRESS RELEASE**

The Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Vermont stated today that three men were indicted by the grand jury in U.S. District Court, in Rutland, for their involvement in extensive drug trafficking and weapons offenses occurring in the Barre, VT area.

Eric Gravel, 24, of Hardwick, VT, Waldo Yago, 27, of Bronx, New York, and Fernando Rios, 32, of New York City, are charged in a 7 count indictment with engaging in a conspiracy between 2002 and 2004 to distribute over 5 kilograms of cocaine and 1 kilogram of heroin. Rios is also charged with being a felon in possession of firearms and with carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking crime. Gravel is also charged with making false statements to a firearms dealer in connection with the purchase of a weapon and with being a drug user in possession of a shotgun, a pistol and ammunition.

This extensive investigation was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Barre Police Department.

The United States Attorney cautions that the information contained in the indictment constitutes allegations only at this time and that the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

Each of the defendants are currently in custody in Vermont and New York and arraignment dates will be set in the future. If convicted of the offenses, the defendants face sentences of at least 10 years imprisonment and fines of up to \$4,000,000.

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