

The MobNews Digest is a collection of recent news stories relating to organized crime. Material found in this digest has been published previously on the MobNews blog and other Internet news sources. To respect copyright, photographs within this digest are generally limited to law enforcement mugshots and widely disseminated headshots of public figures.

MOB DIGEST NEWS

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Gotti Jr. 'Episode 3'

Gambino hierarchy is reeling

Prosecutors in the racketeering trial of John A. "Junior" Gotti concluded their case Sept. 7 by playing a 2001 videotape of Gotti's imprisoned father that underscored John Jr.'s continuing involvement in the underworld.

In the tape, Gambino boss John J. Gotti indicated those who should lead the Gambino Crime Family in his absence. He sat with a visitor at Springfield Mo. prison and designated his brother Peter as boss and his son John as a family capo. John Jr. was effectively demoted after serving for a time as acting boss.

The tape served to counter John Jr.'s claim that he ended his participation in the crime family in the 1990s, in which case the federal statute of limitations on charges against him has expired.

John Jr.'s defense now begins. This is his third major racketeering trial. The previous two trials ended in hung juries. Gotti admits to having been

part of the Gambino leadership but insists that he said goodbye to the Mafia life by 1999, putting his offenses out of the statutory reach of federal prosecutors.



John A. Gotti

'Episode 3' started Aug. 14 with a slow round of jury selection. One member of the jury pool dismissed from service on that first day was a man who said he believed in karma and repeatedly referred to Gotti as "Mr. Gandhi."

Prosecutors presented evidence that Gotti ordered the 1992 assault and kidnapping of radio personality Curtis Sliwa. Mob informant Joseph D'Angelo, 37, testified Aug. 21 that Gotti, "Jackie Nose" D'Amico and Nicholas Corozzo comprised a lead-

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Three convicted of murders

Jury finds Amato, Locurto, Basile guilty

Baldassare "Baldo" Amato, 54, Stephen "Stevie Blue Eyes" Locurto, 45, and Anthony Basile, 36, were convicted in Brooklyn federal court July 12 of racketeering and murder.

A jury decided that Sicilian-born Amato, reputed made member of the Bonanno Crime Family, was involved in the May 1992 murder of Robert Perrino, a delivery supervisor at the New York Post.

Perrino reportedly oversaw Bonanno control of Post drivers. He was killed, said prosecutors, when the crime family feared he would provide evidence to federal investigators. Perrino was lured to Basile's social club in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn. When he reached the top of a stairwell, Amato shot him twice in the head.

Amato was also convicted of participating in the murder of Queens NY restaurant owner Sebastiano DiFalco.

A resident of the United States since the 1970s, Amato was reportedly a bodyguard for Bonanno bigshot Carmine Galante on July 12, 1979, when Galante was shot to death at a Brooklyn restaurant. Amato was unhurt in that attack, sparking speculation that he was part of a conspiracy to do away with Galante. Another Galante bodyguard, Cesare Bonventre, was later found shot to death.

Amato has also been linked with the international drug conspiracy known as the Pizza Connection.

He was indicted, along with nearly

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Gotti 'Episode 3'; Convictions leave Gambinos reeling

Continued from Page 1

ership panel in the Gambino Family during John J. Gotti's imprisonment in the 1990s. D'Angelo said the younger Gotti ordered him to make an impression on Sliwa, who had spoken against John Sr. on the radio.

"This is personal," D'Angelo recalled Gotti's words. "I want him to know we can put our hands on him and do this anytime.. I want him to feel our hands on him.

When D'Angelo and reputed mobster Michael Yannotti grabbed Sliwa in a taxi cab on June 19, 1992, things got out of hand. Yannotti drew a handgun and shot at Sliwa. Sliwa leaped out a car window.

Glen Alan West, convicted criminal and senior member of the Aryan Brotherhood prison gang, testified Aug. 23 that John Jr. brought \$2,500 to a prison for his father to lend to West. The elder Gotti was apparently seeking prison protection from the Aryan Brotherhood. He offered the money as an interest-free loan to West.

Money was the theme of an audiotape played for jurors on Aug. 25. In the tape, John Jr. was heard issuing demands for underworld funds in 2003, four years after he claimed to have left the mob.

Gotti asked a reputed mob associate to collect on old underworld debts and to hold a fundraiser in which "all our friends are gonna have to pitch in," in order to finance his legal battles. Gotti was an inmate at Ray Brook federal prison, discussing his situation with visitor Steven Dobies on July 11, 2003, when the tape was made.

Some of the debts went back 15 years. "Everybody who owes me a dollar, I have to try to collect. No matter how long it may be, because I have to start raising the capital right now to defend myself," Gotti said.

Former Gotti friend and underworld partner Michael "Mikey Scars" DiLeonardo took the stand and described Gambino construction rackets, underworld rivalries as well as Gotti's growing animosity toward relatives.

According to DiLeonardo, Gotti became enraged that three underlings were taking more than their share of construction extortion money. He called the three to a meeting, at which he planned to have them murdered. He called off the hit when they showed up with friends.

Gotti later reportedly offered evidence against the three men to federal prosecutors in an effort to reach a bargain on racketeering charges.

DiLeonardo told how reputed mobster Gregory DePalma, of Scarsdale, was elevated from Gambino soldier to capo after wresting control of a Mount Vernon-based construction company from Genovese control.

He further testified to a deal Gotti Sr. made with mob turncoat Salvatore "Sammy the Bull" Gravano. In the deal, the elder Gotti promised that no harm would come to Gravano's family if the Bull would not testify against John Jr.

More audiotapes indicated John Jr.'s anger over being demoted to capo and his resentment toward his uncles, who allegedly took over the family leadership.

DePalma faces more than 10 years



Gregory DePalma was convicted on 27 of 36 charges against him on June 6. A jury deliberated three days.

DePalma, 74, a reputed capo in the Gambino Family, is expected to get more than 10 years. The elderly and ailing racketeer was convicted in large part due to recordings of his own bragging.

Numerous boasts were captured by electronic device worn by FBI agent Joaquin Garcia, as he posed undercover as mob associate "Jack Falcone."

DePalma boasted to "Falcone" that he threatened actor Armand Assante shortly before Assante portrayed mob boss John Gotti in an HBO movie. DePalma spoke of dining with singer Mariah Carey and her then-husband Tommy Mottola. He claimed he the longtime manager of Liza Minelli pay for a Las Vegas vacation and shopping spree for some Gambino bigshots and their wives.

Squitieri asks mercy for friend

Arnold "Zeke" Squitieri, 70-year-old reputed ex-boss of the Gambinos, took his own seven-plus-year sentence in stride July 28 as he pleaded with U.S. District Judge Alvin Hellerstein to go easy on Alphonse Sisca.

"If you're going to be merciful, be merciful to him," Squitieri said as he was sentenced for racketeering, gambling, loansharking and extortion. "He's a broken man. I'm begging you: be kind to him."

Sisca, 63, pleaded guilty to participating in gambling, loansharking and extortion rackets. He lost his son and his wife to cancer within the past year. His mother-in-law also died, and his daughter was diagnosed with cancer. Sisca was sentenced to six years, three months.

Prosecutors say Squitieri became acting Gambino boss in 2002. Two years later, the family leadership was toppled through the infiltration of FBI agent Joaquin Garcia, posing as a mob associate named Jack Falcone.

Peter Gotti still out \$3.8M, but could face less time

An appeals court refused in July to clear Peter Gotti of a racketeering/money-laundering conviction or to reduce a \$3.8 million penalty.

However, a Brooklyn federal court was ordered to re-examine Peter Gotti's nine and a half-year prison term, in light of new sentencing guidelines.

Peter Gotti is the brother of the late John Gotti, former boss of the Gambino Crime Family in New York City. He is uncle to John Gotti Jr., on trial for the third time on federal racketeering charges.

Peter Gotti was convicted three years ago of taking control of the Gambino Crime Family after John Gotti Jr. was put in prison.

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CONNECTICUT

Federal authorities this summer made a long-anticipated move against the allegedly corrupt Connecticut waste hauling enterprises of James Galante, 53, of New Fairfield. Twenty-nine people and seven companies owned by or affiliated with Galante were indicted June 9 after a three-year probe that included telephone wiretaps.

Galante was charged with 72 offenses, including racketeering, mail and wire fraud and witness tampering. Also prominent among those accused were former Waterbury CT mayor Joseph Santopietro, 47, and reputed Genovese Crime Family boss Matthew "Matty the Horse" Ianniello, 85. Santopietro is charged with racketeering. Ianniello is charged with RICO and tax law violations.

Prosecutors say Galante made regular payments to Ianniello, including \$200,000 in 2001 and \$30,000 every three months until 2005, in connection with a property rights racket in the waste hauling industry. Santopietro, who previously served time for taking cash kickbacks while mayor, worked as a Galante consultant.

In the property rights racket, waste haulers contributed money for guaranteed contract areas. The effect of the racket was to thwart legitimate business competition.

Galante and the others accused maintain their innocence of the charges. Galante has denied any connection to the underworld.

Galante was held without bail in a Rhode Island facility until the last day of June, when he was released to his \$1.6 million New Fairfield home on \$2 million bail and un-

der strict conditions. He is to wear an electronic monitor that tracks his movements. He has been ordered to have no contact with potential witnesses in the case against him or with codefendants, to avoid use of computers or cell phones, and to leave his home only for medical appointments and meetings associated with the court case.

Ianniello, already under house arrest on other charges, was released immediately on \$1 million bail.

Federal marshals immediately took over Galante's trash operations, as prosecutors claimed that Galante had diverted millions of dollars from those businesses to a minor league hockey team (Danbury Trashers) he owned, to no-show jobs, to race cars and to "questionable stockholder repayments." Marshals indicated in August that they had put a stop to a questionable cash flow amounting to \$4 million per year.

Still, the Galante firms seemed not to be making any money. Marshals notified federal courts that the businesses might have to be sold because they were operating at a loss. Galante's representatives charged that the federal authorities were financially mismanaging his empire.

Others charged in the June indictment include: Galante's brother-in-law Paul DiNardo, 47, CT; Connecticut state police officer Paul Galiatti, 38, CT; Eric Romandi, 59, CT; Timothy Arciola, 35, CT; Dennis Bozzuto, 35, CT; Jason Manafort, 36, CT; Jeremy Everett, 30, CT; Alan Ferraro, 57, CT; Anthony Novella, 28, CT; Joseph LoStocco, 42, CT; Phillip Armetta, 75, CT; Arthur Wallinger, 41, CT; Lisa Henry, 45,

CT; Carmine Dominicus, 42, CT; Galante's business partner Thomas Milo, 68, NY; Richard Galiatti (cousin of Paul Galiatti), 33, NY; Ciro Viento, 43, NY; Richard Caccavale, 47, NY; David Magel, 33, NY; Scott McGowan, 37, NY; Gary Mueller, 51, NY; Ronald Zollo, 48, NY; Anna Priskie, 45, NY; Christopher Rayner, 44, of North Carolina; Louis Angioletti, 35, of New Jersey; Todd Stirling, 33, of Massachusetts.

Joseph Milo Sr., brother of Galante partner Thomas Milo, pleaded guilty to a single count of conspiracy to defraud the IRS on Sept. 6. He faces up to six months in jail when sentenced Dec. 22.

The seven indicted companies are Automated Waste Disposal Inc.; Diversified Waste Disposal Inc.; Superior Waste Disposal Inc.; Transfer Systems Inc.; Advanced Recycling Corp.; AWD affiliated companies Jat Truck Repair Service Inc., minor league hockey team Trashers LLC, SWD subsidiaries Danbury Carting Company Inc. and Thomas Refuse Services Inc.; and Galante controlled 530 Main Street North Corp. doing business as Nutmeg Investments.

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Anthony Megale, of Stamford CT, who pleaded guilty in March to extorting money from businesses in Connecticut, New York and New Jersey, was sentenced in early September to 11 years in prison.

A reputed capo in the Gambino Crime Family, Megale is believed to have served as the family's underboss from 2002 through late 2004. He was also sentenced to pay a fine of \$30,000 and to forfeit \$100,000 of benefit from his underworld ventures.

NEW JERSEY

Raynard "Trouble" Brown, reputed member of a New Jersey branch of the Bloods street gang, was arrested Aug. 8 and charged with the shotgun killing of a police officer.

Brown's arrest occurred in East Orange, NJ, 13 hours after the fatal shooting of Detective Kieran Shields, 32. Brown was already awaiting trial on burglary and weapons charges.

Shields was shot 11:30 p.m. Monday. He and his partner were responding to a report of gunshots. Shields was reportedly wearing a bulletproof vest but took part of the shotgun blast to an unprotected area of his neck.

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James J. Harney, 40, followed up his early August resignation from a New Jersey state

trooper job with a guilty plea and a promise to testify against co-conspirators in an interstate gambling ring.

Harney pleaded guilty to conspiracy, official misconduct and promoting illegal gambling. He will face up to seven years in prison and forfeitures estimated at \$700,000 under a plea deal. He remains free on bail.

The plea agreement requires that Harney help prosecutors with their case against former NHL player Rick Tocchet and New Jersey resident James A. Ulmer, 41. Tocchet and Ulmer allegedly partnered with Harney in the gambling ring.

As he retired, Harney posted a letter on the web that included apologies for "The disgrace which I have placed upon the division, myself and my family."

The ring came to the public's attention

when hockey great Wayne Gretzky's wife Janet Jones was revealed to be one of its regular customers. Gretzky and Jones have denied involvement with the gambling ring. Neither has been charged in the case.

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New Jersey's Casino Control Commission's largest gang sweep in state history. As many as 40 more arrests were expected.

A similar operation targeted the Latin Kings street gang two years ago.

David "Duke" Allen, 32, of Newark, allegedly runs the Nine Trey gang "set" from his cell in New Jersey's State Prison. Authorities charge that another man, James "Rell" Pringle, also incarcerated, has ordered hits on gangsters from within his cell. Pringle is said to have "national status" within the Bloods gang. Emilio Crespo, re-

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puted gang faction big shot, was arrested in Manhattan.

Eighty-three-year-old Joseph Miranda has quietly stepped aside to allow Francesco Guarraci, 51, to take over the day-to-day operations of the Newark, NJ-based DeCavalcante Crime Family, according to late June published reports.

Miranda allegedly moved into the position of acting boss in the early 2000s, when jailed boss Giovanni Riggi could no longer handle the position and much of the family's hierarchy was successfully prosecuted. The blue-collar mob family, named for its 1960s-era boss Simone "Sam the Plumber" DeCavalcante, has been decimated by prosecutions since 1999.

The FBI believes the DeCavalcantes reign in New Jersey's Essex and Monmouth Counties. Much of the rest of the state is influenced by the Gambino and Genovese Families of New York and the Bruno Family (or Philly Mob) of Philadelphia, according to a 2004 report by the New Jersey Commission of Investigation.

Guarraci is an immigrant from the DeCavalcante family's ancestral home of Ribera, Sicily. He reportedly became a made member of the Jersey family in 1989 and went to work as a foreman within Laborers International Union Local 394 of Elizabeth, NJ, believed by its parent union to belong to the underworld since its founding in the 1930s.

CALIFORNIA

Latino street gangsters affiliated with the Mexican Mafia prison gang reportedly planned in the late 1990s to kill African Americans in the Highland Park neighborhood of Los Angeles.

The Avenues Gang began an effort to force African Americans out of the community around 1994, according to prosecutors in a federal case. In 1998, the gang was ordered by the Mexican Mafia to "kill any blacks... on sight," an informant reportedly told the FBI.

A federal grand jury returned indictments in the case two years ago. The accused are Gilbert Saldana, 28, already serving a life sentence for murder; Merced "Shadow" Cambero, 28; Alejandro Martinez, 29; and Fernando Cazares, 26. The four men, reputedly members of the Avenues 43 clique, are specifically charged with conspiring in the murder of Kenneth Kurry Wilson, a 38-year-old African American man shot to death

D'Elia charged with money laundering



William D'Elia

William D'Elia of Hughestown, PA, reputed member of the Scranton-Pittston-based Bufalino Crime Family, has been indicted on five counts of money laundering, according to a story by Erin L. Nissley and Chris Birk in today's issue of the Scranton Times-Tribune.

The indictment stems from racketeering charges lodged against Louis Pagnotti III and Frank Pavlico III last year. Pagnotti and Pavlico are charged with setting up phony investments in order to launder hundreds of thousands of dollars. D'Elia is accused of accepting an investment of \$460,000 and returning \$70,000 in interest payments over five years.

In the same case, Richard Smallcombe is charged with setting up a phony business and conspiring with D'Elia on the laundering scheme.

State and federal authorities have been watching D'Elia since 1990, when the Pennsylvania Crime Commission listed him as a "significant member" of the Bufalino crime group. In 2001, turncoat Philly Mob boss Ralph Natale identified D'Elia as the head of the Scranton-Pittston Family. In 2003, the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement put D'Elia on its Exclusion List (black book).

The 59-year-old D'Elia's involvement in the Bufalino Family is believed to date back to the late 1960s, according to an article in Wikipedia. Natale indicated that D'Elia had been helpful in resolving disputes between Philadelphia mob factions.

April 18, 1999, in Highland Park.

Defense attorneys argued in July that the federal government has no justification to involve itself in common street crime. The prosecution of four gang members is based upon federal hate-crime law.

The Avenues was reportedly started as a club by the Flores Brothers in the 1940s. It has grown to 800 regional members, divided into smaller cliques or sets.

A dozen members of the Vineland Boys street gang of the east San Fernando Valley in California are being tried on assorted racketeering charges.

A 78-count indictment against 49 gang members included racketeering, murders of police officers and government witnesses, drug (cocaine, crack, methamphetamine and marijuana) and firearms offenses. A series of trials could linger into next year.

The dozen defendants in the current trial are charged with terrorizing parts of Burbank, Sun Valley, North Hollywood and Palmdale.

Authorities say the Vineland Boys gang,

which despite a federal crackdown still numbers in the hundreds, pays underworld "taxes" to the Mexican Mafia in return for protection within state prisons.

Ernesto Charles Hall, 31, and Ivan Dean Stine, 29, could face the death penalty when they go to trial on charges of killing two reputed California drug dealers in summer of 2003.

Hall and Stine are charged with killing Larry Joseph Barrios on July 11, 2003, and with killing Jorge Lopez Cervantes on Aug. 16, 2003.

Hall has also been named as a participant in the Aug. 5, 2003, robbery and shooting of Karl Weinrich. Weinrich died of complications from his injuries a year later. Two other men - Joey Cortez and Ernesto Madrid - arrested with Hall in that case have already been convicted of first-degree murder. Hall is awaiting trial on the Weinrich charges.

Police say Hall is a member of the Colonia Chiques, a street gang that reportedly collects "taxes" from Oxnard-area drug deal-

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ers for the Mexican Mafia criminal organization.

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With weeks of peace following a rash of teenage murders in San Bernardino, CA, the leaders of rival street gangs appear headed toward a truce.

Four teenage boys - Traveil Williams, 16, Anthony Michael Ramirez, 11, Anthony Johnson, 17, and Jarred Mitchell, 14 - were killed in the city in May and June. A period of gang violence apparently began with the Nov. 13 gang-related killing of 11-year-old Mynisha Crenshaw. Seven of the city's 34 homicide victims this year have been minors.

Rival organizations, including the California Gardens Crips, Magnolia Estates, the Macon Mafia and the Delmann Heights Bloods are said to be preparing for a meeting to iron out terms of a truce.

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Federal prosecutors argued in late August that two reputed leaders of the Aryan Brotherhood prison gang should be given the death penalty.

Barry "the Baron" Mills and Tyler "the Hulk" Bingham have already been convicted of murder conspiracy and racketeering in Santa Ana, CA, federal court. They were found guilty of killing Arva Lee Ray, a prisoner at the Lompoc Penitentiary in 1989, and of acts related to the deaths of two black gang members during a 1997 riot at Lewisburg PA prison.

More than one dozen people will eventually face capital punishment in the federal crackdown on the Aryan Brotherhood prison gang. Additional trials are scheduled in Los Angeles later this year.

NEW YORK

Frank and Peter DiTommaso, brothers and co-owners of construction related businesses in New York and New Jersey, were indicted July 19 on perjury charges.

The DiTommasos (Frank aged 47 and Peter aged 45) were charged in Bronx Supreme Court with lying to the grand jury investigating former city police commissioner Bernard Kerik. The brothers insisted that their company, Interstate Industrial Corporation, did not pay \$165,000 for renovations to Kerik's Riverdale apartment. Kerik contradicted their testimony when he pleaded guilty to accepting illegal gifts last month (see below).

Prosecutors insist that the DiTommaso businesses are related to the New York-New

Jersey Mafia. At least one company in the DiTommaso chain was previously owned by a capo of the Gambino Crime Family.

New Jersey gaming officials, seeking to prevent DiTommaso companies from working on lucrative casino projects, have linked the two men with the DeCavalcante Crime Family of northern New Jersey, in addition to New York's Gambino clan.

The brothers deny the allegations.

Former New York City police commissioner Bernard Kerik pleaded guilty in late June to accepting \$165,000 in gifts the DiTommaso company.

Kerik, who once had been considered for a top law enforcement post in President Bush's Administration, was sentenced to pay \$221,000 in fines and fees.

The DiTommasos allegedly did favors for Kerik and his friends in exchange for Kerik's support in the city government. The DiTommasos insist they are innocent of any wrongdoing and are victims of guilt-by-association.

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Genesis Regalado, 11, was killed July 17 by a stray bullet as she played in the water of an open Queens, NY, hydrant. The bullet that hit Genesis in the head was reportedly intended for a gang member standing nearby.

The suspected gunman, identified by police as Jeffrey Matista, was arrested getting off a plane in the Dominican Republic. He was immediately returned to New York. His cousin was taken into custody for questioning.

The intended target reportedly was a 16-year-old boy who is allegedly a member of the 99th Street Gang. He is said to have brandished a handgun at members of a rival gang, the Calloway Street Boys, a week earlier.

The shooting took place at the intersection of 99th Street and 55th Avenue in the Corona section of Queens.

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The leaders of a New York-based Albanian organized crime group have been given lengthy prison sentences.

Alex "Allie Boy" Rudaj, 38, of Yorktown Heights, NY, is being sent away for 27 years for racketeering, extortion and gambling crimes. Three of his codefendants also received hefty sentences. Nardino "Lenny" Colotti, 43, of the Bronx got 27 years. Nick "Nicky Nails" Dedaj, 42, of Yonkers got 26. Prenka "Big Frank" Ivezaj, 40, of Queens got 22.

Rudaj and Colotti reportedly split off from the Gambino Crime Family in the early

1990s and formed their own criminal group, nicknamed "the Corporation" and "the Albanian Mafia." They competed with the established "five families" in New York as they developed a lucrative network of gambling operations in Queens, Westchester and the Bronx.

The Corporation is believed to have pushed the Lucchese Crime Family out of gambling in the Astoria, Queens, community back in 2001. The group was also active in the Arthur Avenue and Morris Park areas of the Bronx and in nearby Westchester County.

A federal grand jury indicted 22 members of the Corporation back in November 2004. Sixteen other defendants reached plea deals. Rudaj and his 21 associates were arrested on October 26, 2004, in the first reported crackdown on an Albanian organized criminal enterprise in this country. The trial opened Sept. 27, 2005. Guilty verdicts were returned Jan. 4, after a 14-week jury trial in Manhattan federal court.

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Dominick Dellaccio, 61, of Lockport NY, was sentenced Aug. 21 to 38 months in prison, two years of supervised release and a \$20,000 fine for federal racketeering offenses, according to a press release from the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of New York.

Dellaccio, who has served as president and in other officer positions in the Laborers International Union of America Local 91, pleaded guilty to acts of extortion at construction projects in Niagara County, NY.

A total of 18 members of Local 91 have been convicted on racketeering and extortion-related charges.

A federal grand jury indicted Dellaccio, along with union officials Mark Congi, Michael "Butch" Quarcini, Salvatore Bertino, Albert Celeste, and other union members on charges of racketeering conspiracy back in November of 2001.

The union's "enforcer," Andrew Shomers was sentenced to four years and three months in prison for firebombing non-union construction professionals.

Peter Petrovic of Niagara, NY, testified in mid-August that early Laborers Union threats were followed up by fiery explosions at his apartment. Firebombs attached to bricks were thrown into Petrovic's apartment on April 21, 1997, causing injuries to the head of his roommate.

Former Local 91 vice president Salvatore Bertino was sentenced Aug. 22 to four years

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on a racketeering conviction.

Four other former officials of the local - Paul Bellreng, Albert Celeste, Mark Congi and Joel Cicero - pleaded guilty to crimes in August and will be sentenced in November. Bellreng, Celeste and Congi pleaded guilty to racketeering conspiracy. Cicero pleaded guilty to extortion.

During a hearing, a police witness referred to Cicero's late father-in-law, Michael "Butch" Quarcini, as the "godfather" of Local 91, drawing a rebuke from the judge and arguments for a mistrial from defense attorneys.

MASSACHUSETTS

Joseph "the Horse" Salvati and Peter Limone spent more than 30 years in prison for a 1965 gang murder they did not commit.

Freed in 2001 after it was revealed the FBI hid evidence that would have cleared them, the two men are now pursuing civil litigation against the federal government.

U.S. District Judge Nancy Gertner decided Aug. 18 that the cases could move forward. The federal government sought to have the cases dismissed on the grounds that the FBI is under no legal obligation to share evidence in federal cases with state agencies and that the government was protected from civil lawsuits at the time the men were imprisoned. A trial is scheduled for November.

Henry Tameleo and Louis Greco were also jailed in connection with the same killing, that of Edward "Teddy" Deegan. They both died in prison. Their families have also brought claims against the government. Judge Gertner has not yet ruled on those cases.

Tameleo reputedly served as Raymond Patriarca's underboss in the New England Crime Family. He died in August of 1985 at age 84, after serving 17 years. Greco died in prison, afflicted with colon cancer and heart disease, in 1995. He was 78. Greco was reportedly in Miami at the time of Deegan's murder and had multiple witnesses to that fact. The jury chose not to believe the witnesses.

The FBI reportedly hid its information in order to protect an informant, former mob enforcer, Joseph "the Animal" Barboza. According to attorney Victor J. Garo, attorney for Salvati, the FBI helped Barboza to frame Salvati and the three other men in a 1967 trial. The FBI was reportedly aware that its informant gave false testimony in

that case.

Barboza and Vincent "Jimmy the Bear" Flemmi were reportedly involved in the hit on Deegan. Deegan was brought in on a supposed robbery in Chelsea, Mass., on March 12, 1965. As he and accomplices gained entrance to the targeted building, his accomplices opened fire on him.

Limone, Tameleo and Greco were initially sentenced to death, with Salvati receiving a life prison sentence as a supposed accessory. The death sentences were commuted to life prison sentences in the early 1970s.

The New England mob tracked Barboza despite his entry into the Witness Protection Program. Barboza was killed in California in 1976.

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Paul J. DeCologero, 32, and Joseph F. Pavone, 33, were sentenced in Lowell, MA, federal court in early September for witness tampering in connection with the 1996 murder of 19-year-old woman Aislin Silva.

DeCologero was sentenced to 25 years in prison for witness tampering and racketeering. He was accused of helping his uncle Paul A. "Big Paulie" DeCologero organize the murder. Pavone received a six-year prison sentence for witness tampering. The two men were convicted in March.

Prosecutors say DeCologero and Pavone are members of the DeCologero crew of Burlington, a criminal organization associated with the New England Mafia Family, based in Providence, RI.

Silva was the girlfriend of Stephen DiCenso, who was arrested on drug and gun charges in 1996. Authorities say the elder DeCologero feared Silva would provide evidence to investigators on the crew's operations and ordered her killed.

Her body - believed to have been dismembered and secreted somewhere on the North Shore - has never been found. Investigators searched a wooded area near a Peabody elementary school in June. Traces of her hair and blood were found in a dumpster behind a Danvers car wash in 1997.

"Big Paulie" DeCologero was convicted of the murder in March. His nephew John P. DeCologero was also convicted of witness tampering. Those two men have not yet been sentenced.

Kevin Muise, believed to have performed the killing of Silva, hanged himself in prison. Derek Capozzi, 33, was sentenced to 33 years for helping to dismember Silva and dispose of her remains.

RHODE ISLAND

Anthony St. Laurent Sr., 65, reputed member of a New England Mafia family based in Providence, R.I., pleaded guilty July 12 to extortion charges.

St. Laurent, known as "The Saint," was arrested in April. He was charged with demanding \$100,000 from two men, in addition to \$2,000 weekly payments. He faces a maximum possible penalty of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

St. Laurent is believed to be a longtime made member of the Patriarca Crime Family. The Nevada Gaming Commission exclusion list indicates that his arrest record dates back to 1959 and includes various gambling offenses. He was placed on the Nevada exclusion list - banning him from gaming establishments - in 1993. In 1999 he was reported convicted in Rhode Island for extortion, loansharking and bookmaking.

While serving time for those offenses, St. Laurent reportedly ran a lucrative multi-state gambling operation from his prison cell. He pleaded guilty to the gambling charges in 2002. He was out of prison and under supervised release at his Johnstown, R.I., home at the time of his most recent arrest.

PENNSYLVANIA

Mob turncoat Philip "Philly Fay" Casale, already serving a 20-year federal sentence for racketeering crimes that included two other murders, will face at least 10 more years when sentenced for four mob hits he forgot to tell authorities about.

Casale, 62, began cooperating with the government in November 1999. He recorded conversations that caused mobster Peter "Pete the Crumb" Caprio to plead guilty and also work toward the conviction of reputed Philly Mob (Bruno/Scarfo Family) boss Joseph "Skinny Joey" Merlino.

But Casale showed authorities an abridged résumé when he flipped. He admitted to two killings - alleged mobster Joseph Sodano in 1996 and alleged mob associate Willie Gantz in 1994 - performed on orders from Caprio. He neglected to mention four other North Jersey killings in which he was the shooter.

Caprio turned the tables on his old ally and ratted out Casale for the four murders - Teamster official Harry Serio in October 1989 and alleged mob associates Lawrence Scoloveno, William Shear and Robert Matonis. Prosecutors subsequently dis-

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Louis Eppolito and Stephen Caracappa

'Mafia Cops' await their next trial

Former New York Police Department detectives Louis Eppolito and Stephen Caracappa continue to be held without bail, awaiting a new trial on drug trafficking and money-laundering charges.

In June, federal Judge Jack Weinstein threw out a jury's guilty verdict against the pair on racketeering charges due to an expired statute of limitations. He ruled, however, that the two men - dubbed the "Mafia Cops" - should remain in prison until a new trial can be held on more recent charges.

Eppolito, 58, and Caracappa, 64, face plenty of other legal problems. They could be prosecuted for murder - for which there is no limiting statute - in the State of New York. They also face a number of civil lawsuits brought by the families of men killed reportedly through the cooperation of the two former policemen with underworld figures.

Prosecutors say Eppolito and Caracappa moonlighted for Anthony "Gaspape" Casso, bigshot of the Lucchese Crime Family.

Eppolito's attorney asked in mid-August that his client be released on bail because excessive summer heat in a Brooklyn lockup cell was endangering his health.

Attorney Joseph Bondy wrote to a federal court, "During the recent hot weather, Mr Eppolito fainted in his cell, hitting his hip on the toilet and his head on the concrete floor."

The lockup area is air conditioned, and Bondy's request for bail was denied.

Burton Kaplan, 72, a Lucchese Crime Family associate who testified against Eppolito and Caracappa, could have his sentenced reduced shortly, the result of his assistance to prosecutors.

Kaplan is serving a 27-year term for marijuana trafficking.

He claims to have served as a go-between for Casso and the two detectives.

Amato, Locurto, Basile convicted

Continued from Page 1

every other noteworthy made guy in the Bonanno clan, back in Jan. 20, 2004. He was already in prison on other charges at that time, having pleaded guilty to armed robbery conspiracy and weapons charges in 2000.

Locurto, reputed Bonanno soldier, was convicted of murder conspiracy in the 1986 killing of Robert Platia, as well as racketeering.

In a previous trial, Locurto was acquitted of Platia's murder, despite being apprehended with a smoking gun in his hand at the scene. Locurto insisted that he had just been passing by when he heard gunshots and picked up the murder weapon to defend himself.

Basile, reputed Bonanno Family associate, was convicted of being part of a "cleanup crew" at the Perrino killing.

Pending legal appeal, the three men will be sentenced by Judge Nicholas Garaufis on Oct. 27.

Attanasio, Calabrese conspired to kill Bonventre

Louis "Louie Ha Ha" Attanasio, reputed capo in the Bonanno Crime Family, pleaded guilty Aug. 17 to conspiring to murder Cesar Bonventre in 1984.

Attanasio reportedly told Judge Nicholas Garaufis, "I knowingly and intentionally agreed with others to cause the death of Cesar Bonventre."

Peter "Rabbit" Calabrese, another reputed Bonanno capo, also pleaded guilty to the same charge.

Bonventre was a bigshot in the Bonanno Family's Sicilian faction until a falling out with then-boss Joey Massino. Bonventre was shot in the back of the head, chopped into pieces and stuffed into steel drums later found at a New Jersey industrial site.

Attanasio, 62, and Calabrese, 58, face 15-year prison sentences under plea deal worked out with U.S. Attorneys.



Louis Attanasio

'Gorgeous' complains to the management

An attorney for Vincent "Vinnie Gorgeous" Basciano, reputed ex-boss of the Bonanno Crime Family, charged in August that his client had been mistreated while in custody.

The attorney, James Kousouros, said Basciano was moved from a general population cell in a Brooklyn federal lockup into a solitary confinement cell with "feces and urine" all over the walls. Basciano was reportedly moved after he allegedly threatened violence against individuals during his trial.

Basciano faces a retrial on murder charges next year.

MOBNEWS: UNITED STATES

carded their cooperating agreement with Casale. He was sentenced to the maximum 20 years for the original crimes and he was charged with the additional four killings.

He pleaded guilty to the killings July 19 in two separate courts. He appeared in U.S. District Court in Newark, NJ, to plead to murder conspiracy against Serio. He then appeared in New Jersey Superior Court in Essex County on the other killings, all manslaughter charges. It is believed Casale will serve an additional 10 years on the federal charge. He could be sentenced to 10 years for each state charge, but that time would run concurrent with his federal sentence.

Caprio's testimony also aided the government's case against Merlino. Caprio shortened his own jail time to just over six years. He was released this year.

Merlino, son of a former Philly Mob underboss, reportedly took over the family in 1998, when former Philadelphia boss Ralph Natale was arrested on parole violations. (Natale assumed the family leadership when released from prison - drug and racketeering charges - in 1994.) Natale was additionally charged with conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine in 1999.

Shortly thereafter, he began cooperating

with government prosecutors.

Merlino was convicted of racketeering in 2001 and sentenced to 14 years in prison.

UTAH

Fourteen people, many already serving time in Utah state prisons, were charged in early July with membership in a Salt Lake City, Utah, street gang known as the Tiny Oriental Posse. The gang has conducted what authorities view as a decadelong reign of terror in the West Valley City area.

In a federal indictment, the 14 alleged members and associates of the gang are charged with racketeering conspiracy, violent crime in aid of racketeering and violation of federal firearms law. Among the gang's alleged activities has been the manufacture and sale of methamphetamine.

The accused are: William Dav Mathipannha, 24, a state prisoner serving a life sentence; Daniel Chhoun, 23; Prum Mony Ty, 23, currently serving a sentence in Utah State Prison; Chantha Chhat, 24, also a state prisoner; Phoukham Chanthavong, 24, a state prisoner; Samnang Yong, 25, currently in federal prison; Rithy Chhat, 25; Andrew Schmidt, 18; Brian Chhoun, no age available; Alan Rattrisouk, 21, state prisoner; Sackda Douangbupha, 25,

state prisoner; Vongmany Mathipannha, 27, federal prisoner; Ry Ken, no age available, state prisoner; and Niue Fakatou, 26.

The Tiny Oriental Posse, created around 1985, is believed to be related to the violent street gang, the Baby Regulators. Members of the Posse wear a white bandana.

NEVADA

Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman is solidly behind the push to establish a mob museum in his city.

The museum, penciled in for a 2008 opening, is planned for the old federal post office building downtown. The facility is expected to cost about \$30 million.

TEXAS

A late July report indicates that gang membership across the Rio Grande Valley of Texas is climbing.

Teenage boys at a drug treatment facility described membership in teen street gangs, like the West Side Gang in Harlingen TX, as a stepping stone to larger organizations like the Mexican Mafia.

The region's gangs are involved in drug smuggling, alien smuggling and murder, according to law enforcement. Young people are actively recruited for gang membership.

MOBNEWS: BOOKS & MOVIES

Biographers Anthony Summers and Robbyn Swan examine connections between the late Frank Sinatra and organized criminal figures in the book, "Sinatra: The Life."



Sinatra

The book finds links between Sinatra and gangsters like Willie Moretti and Charlie Luciano. The Moretti connection is fairly well known. Moretti served as a New Jersey gambling czar and enforcer for the New York-based crime family run by Luciano and later by Frank Costello.

Moretti saw Sinatra's earning potential while the crooner was laboring under a restrictive contract. The gangster "convinced" Sinatra's employer to let him out of the deal.

- - -

A 272-page report by the Chicago Crime Commission contains a number of revela-

tions about organized crime in the region. In an effort to avoid the scrutiny of city law enforcement, many gangsters are moving to the suburbs, where police do not have the manpower or experience to deal with them.

Chicago is home to about 100 gangs, involving as many as 125,000 members. As many as 20 of the gangs - including the Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords and Latin Kings - are well organized. Narcotics are the financial lifeblood of gangs, accounting for more than \$0.5 billion in revenue each year.

The Chicago Crime Commission can be found on the web at:

<http://www.chicagocrimecommission.org/>

The Gang Book sells for \$25 per copy with bulk discounts for law enforcement and educators.

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"Little Joe" Defede, turncoat acting boss of the Lucchese Crime Family, and his wife are working on a combined memoir.

Joe Defede ran Lucchese affairs between about 1994 and 1998, when he pleaded guilty to extortion. He decided to cooperate with investigations of his old associates, when some of them threatened his family.

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Newsday staff writer Gene Seymour gave a generally positive review to "Excellent Cadavers," a movie on the Sicilian Mafia.

The movie, based upon the Alexander Stille book of the same name, focuses on fairly recent Mafia history, featuring the heroic efforts of law enforcement martyrs Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino. Despite the roadblocks of omerta and a corrupt government, Falcone and Borsellino scored convictions against major Mafiosi before their 1992 assassinations.

Seymour's only quarrel with the movie seemed to be its lack of detail when referring to Mafia links with Italian officials.

Feds pounce on Florida's aging Genovese crew

Feds break up Florida arm of Genovese family

Seven Florida residents were named in a 29-page racketeering indictment unsealed in Fort Lauderdale June 30.

Renaldi "Ray" Ruggiero, 72, of West Palm Beach Gardens, was charged with being a Genovese Crime Family capo, leader of the south Florida branch of that family.

Also charged were: Joseph Dennis "the Baker" Colasacco, 54, of Boca Raton; Mitchell "Mitch" Weissman, 54, of Boca Raton; Clement "Clem" Santoro of New York; Francis "Frank" J. O'Donnell, 47, of Cooper City; Charles "The Fat Man" Steinberg, 30, of Coral Springs; Albert Facchiano, also known as Chinky, the Chinese guy, or the Old Man, 96, of Bal Harbour.

Authorities say the group committed extortion, robbery, money-laundering, loan-sharking, bank fraud and possession of stolen property through a decade.

The government's case is reportedly based on thousands of hours of surveillance tapes. Investigators recorded about 12,000 telephone calls through court-ordered wiretaps over more than a decade. They also accumulated 168 videotapes of the defendants and 10,000 pages of seized documents.

If convicted of all the charges against him, Ruggiero could be sentenced to 20 years to life in prison and fines up to \$1.75 million. (A humorous column by Frank Cerabino of the Palm Beach Post noted, "That's not taking into account the senior-citizen discount. Cerabino also observed, "It's good to see senior citizens remaining active in the community.")

Facchiano faces a possible maximum sentence of 60 years in prison. He's already 96 years old.

In August, a U.S. magistrate denied release on bail to Ruggiero, Colasacco, Steinberg and Weissman.

The Genovese clan has fallen on hard times. Age and prosecution have taken a toll. The reputed acting boss, Liborio S. "Barney" Bellomo and 31 others were arrested in New York last February.

If Ruggiero is convicted of the charges against him, the 72-year-old could be sentenced to up to 120 years in prison and fined up to \$1.75 million. The other accused face lesser maximum sentences.

'Johnny Sausage' guilty of extortion

John "Johnny Sausage" Barbato, 72, of Staten Island, NY, pleaded guilty June 20 to racketeering and extortion charges.

He admitted to working with union bosses to extract \$250,000 in kickbacks from roofing contractors. Barbato was arrested two years ago along with some leaders of the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers.

Under a plea bargain, Barbato will receive a jail sentence of between two and six years. (He had been facing a possible 25-year term.)

Prosecutors say Barbato, who obtained his nickname when his father ran a sausage shop, was a captain in New York's Genovese Crime Family.

Barbato has also been indicted along with the one-time leadership of the Genovese Family for racketeering and other offenses. Dominick "Quiet Dom" Cirillo, reputed acting boss of the family, Lawrence "Little Larry" Dentico and Anthony "Tico" Antico were also named in that indictment.

Barbato has been on the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement Exclusion List since 1987. According to that document, he was convicted in 1959 of three counts of bookmaking, in 1960 for bookmaking and in 1963 for robbery.

"In addition," the New Jersey Exclusion List states, "Mr. Barbato was identified as a bodyguard and chauffeur of Benny 'Eggs' Mangano, a member of the Genovese Crime Family, by Lt. Col. Dintino in his public testimony before the New Jersey State Commission of Investigations on 3/1/83."

More trouble for Caporino

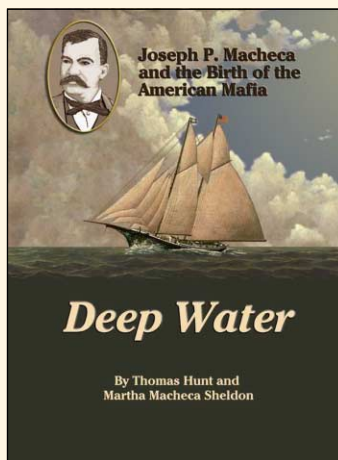
Peter "Petey Cap" Caporino, former associate of the Genovese Crime Family, pleaded innocent in Early September to charges of promoting gambling, conspiracy and possession of gambling records.

Caporino served as an FBI informant for 18 years. Tapes of mob dealings produced by Caporino in 2002 through 2005 helped to indict 16 Genovese members in New York and New Jersey, including Joseph "Big Joey" Scarbrough and Lawrence "Little Guy" Dentico.

He was arrested by Jersey City Police Aug. 23 allegedly in possession of \$6,500 in cash and records of \$50,000 in bets. Police had been investigating Caporino for three months.

Hudson County NJ prosecutors say a 2002 plea deal that gave Caporino a five-year suspended sentence in exchange for his cooperation is now in jeopardy because of his alleged continuing criminal activity.

COMING IN NOVEMBER



Joseph P. Macheca served as a street warrior for the corrupt New Orleans Democratic machine, as a pioneer of the Crescent City's fruit trade, as a Confederate privateer in the Gulf and as the "godfather" of the first Mafia organization to germinate in American soil. *Deep Water* by Thomas Hunt and Martha Macheca Sheldon at last establishes the factual details of Macheca's epic life story and sets them against the vivid backdrop of Gilded Age New Orleans.

<http://www.jpmacheca.com/>

MOBNEWS: INTERNATIONAL

CANADA

The death of Domenico Macri, 31, shot to death Aug. 30 in Riviere des Praires, southwest Quebec, could be part of a power struggle within the Montreal Mafia underworld.

The killing had the earmarks of a planned mob hit. At the intersection of Henri Bourassa Blvd. E. and Rodolphe Forget Blvd., two helmeted men on a Japanese motorcycle pulled up next to the Cadillac in which Macri was traveling. One of the men got off the motorcycle, drew a weapon and opened fire at Macri. The gunman jumped back on the motorcycle, which sped away.

Macri was a close associate of a 52-year-old man who served as acting boss of the Vito Rizzuto's criminal organization while Rizzuto was held in a Canadian prison. Macri was sentenced to three years in prison in 1993 after pleading guilty to possession of heroin.

Rizzuto was extradited to the United States in mid-August to stand trial for the 1981 murder of three New York mobsters. His departure could have undermined those he selected to lead his underworld empire.

The Supreme Court of Canada refused Aug. 17 to hear a last-ditch appeal of a 2005 extradition order against Rizzuto. By mid-day, Canadian officials had turned Rizzuto over to the U.S. FBI. He was transported to New York and formally arraigned for participating in the 1981 murders of three Bonanno Crime Family capos - Philip Giaccone, Dominick Trincherà and Alphonse Indelicato - believed to be disloyal to the family leadership. Former Bonanno boss Joseph Massino is said to be among those identifying Rizzuto as a shooter in that crime.

Rizzuto is the only Canadian arrested in the 2004 roundup of 28 key members of the Bonanno family. He was nabbed at his Montreal home 6:15 a.m. on July 17. All others were arrested in New York.

Rizzuto had tested the constitutionality of Canada's extradition laws. The nation's Supreme Court decided against him July 21.

Rizzuto was born in Sicily, Feb. 21, 1946, and moved with his family to Montreal in 1954. He served time on an arson conspiracy conviction in 1972 and is believed to have been formally inducted into the Bonanno Family in 1981. He reportedly rose to lead the Canadian arm of New York's Bonanno Crime Family by 2000. That unit is now widely regarded as its own Mafia family.

The 60-year-old Rizzuto faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted. His attorneys insist that there is no evidence Rizzuto traveled to New York at any time after 1981 (when he was photographed in the company of Massino) and that the statute of limitations on U.S. federal charges has since expired.

Rizzuto's extradition could also unsettle matters in Toronto. He had been viewed as a custodian of Mafia interests in that city, while the underworld hierarchy was in transition. Rizzuto once owned a waste disposal business in Toronto.

One contender for the title of Toronto boss, Pietro Scarcella, was recently given 11 years in jail for a botched hit on a rival that left a female bystander paralyzed. Scarcella reportedly intended to kill reputed Sicilian mobster Michele Modica at a North York sandwich shop. Louise Russo, mother of three, was struck by flying lead and left paralyzed. Modica has since been deported to Italy.

Another reputed Mafioso, Alfonso Caruana, is fighting extradition to Italy. There he faces charges of laundering drug money. He could be sentenced to 22 years in prison if found guilty. Caruana is already serving 18 years for drug convictions in Canada.

Law enforcement authorities are concerned that a mob war could



Rizzuto

erupt once brothers Pasquale and Angelo Musitano are released from prison this October. The brothers are believed to have had a role in the murder of John "Pops" Papalia, once the supreme Mafia boss in the province of Ontario. The brothers avoided trial on the Papalia hit when they pleaded guilty to the 1997 killing of Papalia lieutenant Carmen Barillaro of Niagara Falls.

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Authorities count 300 street gangs in Canada, with as many as 80 active in Greater Toronto. Another 95 gangs call various Ontario locations their home, states the annual report of the Criminal Intelligence Service of Canada. Nearby Montreal is also affected to a large degree. As a result of the presence of these gangs, Toronto and Montreal are hot spots for various gang-related crimes. Murder, assaults and property damage accompany the gangs, as do drug offenses and prostitution. And automobile theft has become a major gang operation, with an estimated 170,000 vehicles stolen each year in Canada - many moved to foreign purchasers through Canada's port cities. The report notes that street gangs have been a rapidly growing problem in Canada since the 1980s.

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Joe "Ironman" Dinardo, a 63-year-old former heavyweight boxer and alleged mob enforcer whose real name is Gabor Magosztovics, was quietly deported from Canada to his native Hungary.

"This career criminal represents an unacceptable risk to the community," said Anna Pape of the Canada Border Services Agency. "He has been rightfully removed from the country."

Dinardo, reportedly a pal of slain mob enforcer Eddie Melo, was jailed more than 22 times. He served five years in 1966 for robbing a jewelry firm's payroll and eight years in 1984 for robbing another jeweler of \$150,000.

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Canadian lawmen broke up a British Columbia-based ring in early July that had been trafficking in guns and drugs.

Arrests began last winter, when two men were captured with 27 World War II-era machine guns in their vehicle. The total number of arrests has since risen to 10. Police have seized machine guns, assault rifles, handguns and silencers valued at \$300,000. Police also hauled in 85 pounds of marijuana and lesser amounts of cocaine, ecstasy and prescription medications.

Police continue to follow leads generated by 14-month-long Project Portal. They say no link has been found between the ring and traditional organized crime groups like the Mafia or biker gangs.

ITALY

The United States FBI has become involved in trying to decipher coded messages detected in the bible of captured Sicilian Mafia boss Bernardo Provenzano.

Provenzano was apprehended in the hills near Corleone, Sicily, in April, after hiding out for 40 years. Police discovered a number of typewritten notes, allegedly dealing with Mafia business, and a bible bearing curious marks.

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An Italian businessman was forced to watch as his wife, 41, and his son, 17, were slaughtered, then it was his turn.

Police believe the Calabrian organized criminal society known as the 'Ndrangheta was responsible for the deaths of Angelo Cottarelli, 56, his wife and his son. Cottarelli has been linked to the Calabrian organization.

Cottarelli was still barely alive when police found him the base-

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Did DeVecchio cross the line?



Lindley DeVecchio

Lindley DeVecchio, a former FBI agent accused of secretly cooperating with a faction of the Colombo Crime Family, denied the charges against him in a four-page affidavit filed in Brooklyn federal court in early September.

DeVecchio, 66, faces murder charges as a result of his alleged complicity with Colombo Family capo Greg Scarpa.

"At no time did I ever instruct Scarpa to murder anyone," DeVecchio stated in his affidavit.

The Brooklyn District Attorney's Office accuses the former FBI agent of backing Scarpa in a mob family civil war. Prosecutors say DeVecchio and

Scarpa met regularly and the DeVecchio accepted payments for his assistance to the mob capo.

In August, federal Judge Frederic Block told DeVecchio's attorneys that the case could not be moved into federal court. Murder cases cannot be tried at the federal level.

A number of FBI agents publicly supported DeVecchio when charges surfaced in the spring. That prompted Senator Charles Grassley (Iowa) to express concern during an FBI oversight hearing at the Senate Judiciary Committee in May:

"This case sounds disturbingly familiar. The allegations are similar to those that surfaced a few years ago out of the Boston office, which led to two retired FBI agents being charged with crimes involving collusion with their high-level mafia informants.

"Current and former FBI officials have been publicly raising money for DeVecchio's legal defense and more than forty agents appeared at his bond hearing to show support. According to the website maintained by DeVecchio's supporters in the FBI, the agents helped post a one million dollar bond to secure his release, and after the hearing, the agents surrounded DeVecchio 'in a human blanket' as he left the courtroom so that he could not be questioned by reporters. One agent wrote, 'it might even be said that a few reporters received a few body checks out on the sidewalk' and that he 'was never prouder to be an FBI Agent.'

"Obviously, Mr. DeVecchio is innocent until proven guilty, ... However, I am concerned about the public perception created by such aggressive and broad support of DeVecchio by current and former FBI personnel. It could leave the impression that the FBI as an institution is circling the wagons to defend itself as well as DeVecchio against the charges."

Angela Clemente, the forensic investigator whose work tied former DeVecchio to several underworld murders, said in June that she would drop that matter. An apparent attempt on her life played a part in her decision. Clemente had recently been found beaten and nearly choked to death in her car.

"I'll move on to other cases," she said. "I have other cases... demanding my attention that have been put off. I'm spending an enormous amount of time... and I'm not bringing in any money."

Clemente would not discuss the details of the attack. She warned against attributing it in any way to DeVecchio. However, her work in that case was a factor in the attack. Her assailant claimed to be a relative of a 1992 mob murder victim who wished to discuss DeVecchio's involvement in that crime.

DeVecchio's work in the 1980s helped to bring down the Co-

lombo leadership. He contributed to the 1986 Commission Case.

According to FBI agent Christopher Favo, DeVecchio appeared to cross a line during the early 1990s Colombo Family civil war. Favo claims that DeVecchio sided with Scarpa against his rival Victor Orena. "He was compromised," Favo said. "He had lost track of who he was." DeVecchio reportedly cheered when Orena men were found murdered. He testified against Orena at trial.

Pappas pleads not guilty to insurance fraud

As Manhattan prosecutors continue to investigate the international restaurant empire of Giuseppe Cipriani, the company's second-in-command, Dennis Pappas, 59, pleaded not-guilty July 21 to defrauding health insurance companies out of \$1.6 million.

Prosecutors say Pappas collected on three health insurance policies, claiming that a heart condition left him unable to work. He is also charged with collecting more than \$90,000 in Social Security disability payments and with lying on a cabaret license application for the Rainbow Room.

Pappas previously spent 46 months in prison on extortion and pension fraud charges relating to rackets of the Colombo Crime Family. He pleaded guilty in 1998. When completing the cabaret license application, he checked "no" for a question asking if he'd ever been convicted of a crime.

Cipriani's name has come up in the trials of Peter Gotti and John Gotti Jr. Mob turncoat Michael "Mikey Scars" DiLeonardo, a former capo in the Gambino Crime Family, testified that he accepted a \$120,000 payment from Cipriani in the 1990s to quiet union problems at the Rainbow Room.

Gelardo admits healthcare fraud

Thomas "TJ" Gelardo, 64, reputed soldier in the Lucchese Crime Family, pleaded guilty July 18 to charges that he conspired to defraud the Internal Revenue Service and fraudulently obtained union benefits through a no-show job at a Brooklyn, NY, medical practice. For the years 1995 through 2000, Gelardo and Dr. Jude Thaddeus Barbera, a urologist, conspired on the no-show job, with Dr. Barbera generating fraudulent W-2 forms. Gelardo was able to obtain health coverage and other benefits through Local 348 of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union Health and Welfare Fund. In 2000, Gelardo applied for medical coverage for himself, his wife and daughter.

Gelardo, of 27 Creaville Lane, Tuckahoe, in Westchester County, NY, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to file false income tax returns, one count of health care fraud and one count of mail fraud. He will be sentenced Oct. 26.

Dr. Barbera, 48, recently completed a six-month prison term for lying about Gelardo's employment in his medical office. He was convicted of involvement in the conspiracy in 2003. At the time of his sentencing, Barbera told the judge, "I wish I could take back what I've done, but I can't."

Gelardo was arrested in October 2005, according to a release from the U.S. Attorney, Southern District of New York. He was indicted on nine charges and faced up to 50 years in prison.

At the time of Gelardo's arrest, he was named as an unindicted co-conspirator in an extortion racket charged against reputed Lucchese soldier Ronald Porpora. Porpora, resident of Mount Vernon, allegedly compelled a restaurant owner to provide cars for himself and Gelardo. Gelardo has repeatedly denied any connection with the Lucchese family.

MOBNEWS: INTERNATIONAL

ment of a home in northern Italy. His throat had been cut nearly to the point of decapitation. Cottarelli indicated to police that he knew who the assassins were before he died. But authorities say he did not identify them.

The bodies of his wife and son had bullet wounds to their heads and slash wounds to their throats.

"This was a settling of accounts," local police chief Gaetano Chiusolo said.

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Sicily experienced two gang-related hits on Aug. 21-22.

Antonino Rottino, 35, of Mazzara Sant'Andrea in the Province of Messina, was shot to death near his home overnight. Rottino stepped out of his car with a companion, Luciano Runcio, 28, and was immediately attacked by two men, who had apparently been waiting in the dark near his home. A rifle and a pistol opened fire. Runcio was struck in the arm. Rottino fled to a nearby citrus grove but was pursued and finished off with a pistol shot. Sicilian authorities say Rottino was a member of the Mazzara Sant'Andrea Mafia Family led by Carmelo Bisognano.

Giuseppe D'Angelo, 69, of Palermo, was ambushed and shot to death in the late morning today. His body was found face down on a road named Sferracavallo in front of his fruit shop. He was apparently killed by multiple gunshots. An initial report labeled the attack a "Mafia ambush."

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Rosa Russo Iervolino, mayor of the city of Naples, Italy, apologized to a U.S. tourist who was robbed and beaten in early August on a city street.

The tourist attempted to pursue thieves who took his camera. A group of locals, rather than help the man, blocked him from his pursuit and beat him. The thieves were later apprehended.

"To the American tourist, I say sorry, of course I do," Iervolino said in a press interview. "To my fellow Neapolitans who attacked him, I say their behavior has given an uncivilized image of Naples."

Naples' image has been hurt by the continuing presence of the Camorra criminal organization and bands of thieves who prey on tourists. Recently, Naples hotels offered guests plastic watches for use around the city in order to discourage muggings.

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An Italian organized crime watchdog group claims that mob revenues in that country climbed by 25 percent last year.

The Mafia of Sicily, the Camorra of Naples and the 'Ndrangheta of the Calabrian countryside drained the equivalent of \$44.2 million from the economy, said the SOS Impresa organization.

The vast majority of that money was drawn from the communities of southern Italy and Sicily, where the unemployment rate is four times that of the north.

SOS Impresa is a network of business leaders who oppose underworld extortion.

UNITED KINGDOM

U.K. police agencies arrested reputed Camorra boss Raffaele Caldarelle, 35, in east London Sept. 5.

Caldarelle, linked to the leadership of a Camorra clan in the Mercato area of Naples, Italy, was reportedly on the run for 11 years. He was tried in absentia, convicted and sentenced to 20 years imprisonment in Italy back in 1995.

During Caldarelle's arrest, he reportedly fought with police officers, injuring some of them.

Caldarelle is accused of forgery and of fencing stolen merchandise, including art, antiques and gold. He is being held at Wandsworth Prison in southwest London for a Sept. 13 court appearance. U.K. officials seek to extradite him to Italy.

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Luigi Marotta, reputed Mafia godfather of northern Ireland, could be deported to Italy shortly.

Marotta, 60, was to be released from Ulster's Maghaberry Prison in late August. But a warrant from the Immigration Department in London ordered him detained. He was flown to London and expected to be deported.

Marotta was jailed in 2000 for a conspiracy to defraud the Irish Cream Liqueur Company (some sources refer to St. Brendan's Cream Liqueur) out of 1.4 million pounds in 1998. After two trials ended without verdicts, giving him the nickname "Teflon Don," he was finally convicted of forging signatures on stolen company bank checks.

He was allowed a "compassionate leave" from prison in May 2001 in order to visit his sick three-year-old son in Birmingham (upon posting a 150,000-pound bond) and took that opportunity to flee to Paris, where he was caught 18 months later. After serving almost two more years in a French jail, he was finally returned to a Northern Ireland prison.

U.K. investigators have examined Marotta's activities in Monte Carlo and Verona, Italy, looking for Mafia connections.

One detective said, "The guy is a major mafia player in world terms. He has a network of criminals working for him around the world and, make no mistake about it, he is the real thing; he is Italian Mafia."

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Three appeals court judges in Edinburgh cleared the way in July for Antonio La Torre, reputed boss of a crime family, to be deported back to his native Italy.

La Torre, 50-year-old owner of Pavarotti's restaurant in Scotland's Aberdeen, is believed by authorities to control a Camorra organization involved in drug deals with South America, extortion and money laundering.

Italian police say La Torre, native of Mondragone, Italy, was active in the Camorra in the Naples area before setting up shop in Scotland in the early 1980s. He was tried and convicted of Italian racketeering crimes in absentia in 2004.

La Torre has been in U.K. custody since March 2005, charged with offenses committed between October and December of 2001. He has repeatedly appealed extradition orders. He was naturalized a British citizen in April 1994 and subsequently renounced his Italian citizenship.

CHINA

Police have attributed the Sept. 20 beating of Hong Kong lawyer and political leader Albert Ho to the work of the Triads, the Chinese version of the Mafia.

Ho was eating in a crowded McDonald's restaurant a few blocks from central government buildings, when several assailants - their faces obscured by hats - entered and severely beat him with wooden sticks. The assailants ran after a minute, leaving Ho with a broken nose, swollen eyes, a blood-soaked shirt and many bruises.

The cause of the attack is under investigation.

Dennis Wong, head of the criminology department at City University in Hong Kong, provided background on Chinese organized crime: "The triads are very influential. They are everywhere. They still exist very vividly. It is estimated that sometimes in Hong Kong, we have over 500,000 triad members and over 50 triad societies. I truly believe these figures are correct.

Triads are secret societies that reportedly have existed since the 1700s, when they

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were formed as bands of political revolutionaries.

COLOMBIA

Manuel Felipe Salazar-Espinosa, 55, is being held without bail following a late August appearance in a Manhattan federal court on cocaine trafficking and money laundering charges.

U.S. officials charge that Salazar-Espinosa smuggled more than \$100 million worth of cocaine into the United States from 2002 to 2005. He allegedly used speedboats to carry the drugs from Colombia to Panama and then moved the drugs into Mexico and across the border.

He was arrested in Colombia on May 23, 2005.

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A recent case has shown that portions of Colombia's military actively oppose the nation's anti-drug efforts. That opposition cost the lives of 10 members of an elite police force, massacred by army soldiers paid off by drug kingpin Diego Montoya.

While Colombia is looking for continued U.S. funding for the war on drugs (U.S. gives \$700 million per year), some federal officials are concerned that Montoya has been able to infiltrate various levels of government in the South American nation.

"In some cases [police and soldiers] are passive participants," said police head Gen. Oscar Naranjo. "In other cases, there is a direct criminal penetration of the public institutions that basically conceal the activities of the mafia don by allowing him to do his work or, in some cases, being active participants with him in his work."

The 10 officers were killed by army troops during a daylight operation against Montoya, in which the police were wearing clothing clearly identifying them as law enforcement. None of the officers was left alive.

No army soldiers were injured in the encounter, implying it was an ambush.

The incident, which occurred near the southern Colombian city of Cali, was initially described as a "friendly fire" error.

Fifteen soldiers, including the officer in charge, have been arrested. There are indications that the investigation is moving higher in the ranks and might cross the line into the police agencies.

RUSSIA

An organized crime-related explosion at Moscow's Cherkizovsky Market July 10 resulted in at least 10 deaths and more than

40 injuries.

Two men were arrested after the explosion, which severely damaged the market and collapsed more than 2,000 square feet of its roof.

Authorities believe the blast was the result of competition between rival underworld organizations rather than a terrorist attack. Most of the fatalities were immigrants from the Orient, suggesting a possible ethnic motivation for the bombing.

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Two men, alleged killers employed by the Russian Mafiya, were apprehended in July by Spanish police agencies in the Costa del Sol resort town of Marbella.

The men, known as Martin D. and Alexandre Z., are accused of killing the governor of Russia's Magadan region in 2002.

MEXICO

In mid-August, U.S. federal agents arrested Francisco Javier Arellano Felix, 37, alleged leader of a Mexican drug trafficking ring that smuggles cocaine and heroin across the border.

The drug ring reportedly used tunnels beneath the U.S.-Mexico border to move drug shipments. The ring is also believed to be responsible for 20 murders. Rewards of \$5 million had been offered by the U.S. State Department for the capture of Arellano Felix or his brother Eduardo.

Arellano Felix and 10 other suspects were arrested while fishing off the Baja coast by the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Coast Guard.

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Drug Enforcement Administration agents arrested more than 130 alleged drug traffickers from a nationwide ring Aug. 15.

The arrests - part of Operation Black Gold Rush - were made in 15 cities from Charleston, SC, to Los Angeles, CA. Investigations were carried out in Tennessee, Indiana, Ohio, Colorado, California, North and South Carolina and Arizona.

The ring ran a home delivery drug network, according to the DEA, growing its own poppies, refining them into an unusually pure heroin product in Mexico and then moving them across the border, mostly through Arizona. Individual sales were made via telephone.

COSTA RICA

U.S. authorities arrested Internet gambling company executive David Carruthers July 16 as he changed planes at Dallas-Fort

Worth International Airport on his way to Costa Rica. The shocking incident was part of a fresh crackdown by federal authorities on Internet gambling.

The arrest was immediately followed by the firing of Carruthers by BetOnSports.com, a company based in Costa Rica and publicly traded on the British stock exchange. The company also vehemently denied any relationship with organized criminal entities.

Prosecutors say they plan to press charges of racketeering conspiracy against Carruthers.

Carruthers pleaded innocent in a St. Louis, Mo., courthouse July 31.

U.S. officials also obtained a temporary restraining order against BetOnSports, prohibiting the company from accepting wagers from U.S. customers. BetOnSports has been ordered to return money held in the U.S. customer accounts.

Charges also have been filed against 10 other BetOnSports employees and three Florida marketing companies believed to have promoted illegal gambling through offshore companies.

The London Times in a late July article linked BetOnSports to the Bonanno Crime Family.

BetOnSports once shared the same Costa Rican business address, the same technical support service and the same attorney as Safe Deposit Sports (SDS), which earned millions of dollars for the Bonanno clan. Thirty-six affiliated with SDS were arrested in May 2005 and charged with running an illegal gambling operation that generated \$360 million over more than two years.

Anthony "Tony Green" Urso, then reputed Bonanno acting boss, was charged with receiving tribute money from that operation. Urso, believed to have been part of a leadership group in the Bonanno clan after the jailing of boss Joseph Massino, and fellow Bonanno bigshot Joseph "Joe Saunders" Commarano were indicted for racketeering and murder conspiracy in January 2004. They allegedly cooperated in the 1990 slaying of Bonanno associate Anthony Tomasulo. Last September, Urso was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

A representative of BetOnSports.com dismissed the London Times report as inaccurate.

The spokesman acknowledged that Safe Deposit Sports, a gambling arm of the Bonanno Crime Family, was a subtenant in a 1,000-square-foot Costa Rican office

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leased by BetOnSports, but stated, "As soon as BetOnSports heard of the allegations, they asked SDS to remove themselves from the office."

The two firms also shared an attorney. SDS was evicted from the business property in May 2005.

Online gambling is a quickly growing industry. Websites welcome American customers, even though the Federal Wire Act of 1961 prohibits the use of communication networks for gambling. Many online gambling establishments locate their web servers outside of the U.S., believing that exempts them from U.S. regulations.

VIETNAM

A Vietnamese appeal court in late June backed a sentence of death for Nguyen Van Tho, a top man in the Nam Cam Gang.

Tho was charged in 2002 with murder, bribery and gambling, and he went into hiding. He was arrested in 2004. He was believed to be the right hand man of gang leader Nam Cam, who was executed by the Vietnam government in 2004.

Upon Tho's conviction, he was sentenced to three years imprisonment for gambling, 20 years for bribery and the death penalty for murder. Tho was found guilty of arranging the murder of a Ho Chi Minh City police officer and a friend of the officer. Tho appealed the murder conviction.

The appeals court decided Friday that Tho personally directed the killings.

Nam Cam, also known as Truong Van Cam, organized illegal gambling ventures within Vietnam. He was also connected with criminal groups in the California region.



Nam Cam

In 2003, he was convicted of ordering the October 2000 assassination of a rival gang boss (a woman named Dung Ha) and of bribing officials. More than 150 people went on trial with him, including high-ranking Communist Party officials and police. He was executed by firing squad on June 3, 2004.

PHILIPPINES

Police arrested 23 members of two criminal gangs in the Philippines July 14, seizing high-powered weapons and one armored personnel carrier. Among those arrested were brothers Ronald and Arthur Blanco, reputed bosses of the Black Shark Gang. Members of the gang known as the Bantogon Group were also apprehended.

Authorities say the gangs were involved in extortion, gambling, robbery and kidnapping in Southern Luzon and Metro Manila.

BRAZIL

The criminal organization, First Command of the Capital (PCC), began a new wave of anti-government attacks in Brazil in early August.

Twenty seven different targets in the capital city of Sao Paulo were hit Aug. 7 by the powerful gang, which used homemade bombs, fire and guns.

The entryway of the state prosecutor's building was destroyed by an explosive device. The state finance department's windows were shattered by an explosion. Police posts were shot at. Buses and patrol cars were set afire. Banks, gas stations and supermarkets were also attacked.

The PCC attacked police targets around the city back in May. One hundred fifteen people, including 40 police officers, died in the violence that apparently resulted from the transfer of imprisoned PCC members to a maximum security facility.

In July, the PCC conducted 120 attacks over a three-day period, resulting in seven deaths and 60 arrests.

BULGARIA

With help from the United States FBI, the Bulgarian police smashed a money-laundering group in late July. Money generated through the international drug traffic was used by an American firm to buy land in Bulgaria. One arrest was made in Miami, FL. The network included four Bulgarians.

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Bulgarian criminal organizations are transporting pregnant women across Europe on false pretenses to sell their babies.

Pregnant women are lured abroad by the promise of employment. Instead of jobs, they find small dormitory settings, where they are held until they give birth, a mid-July news report said.

Babies sold in Greece are earning up to 30,000 euros each. A mother is typically given one-tenth and then sent away. Greek police have arrested more than 20 suspected baby-traffickers in recent months.

ROMANIA

Mihai Costea, defense attorney for what the Romanian government identifies as the Camataru mafia clan, was sentenced in July to 13 years in prison for defrauding the government out of 360,000 euros.

According to prosecutors, Costea and oth-

ers used false documents and witnesses to obtain rights to three buildings in downtown Bucharest.

Costea gained media attention for his defense of Vasile and Ion Balint, also known as Sile and Nutu Camataru. The two brothers, now serving 15-year sentences, are believed to be the bosses of the Camataru group. The Camataru's mother and sister were charged with being part of the mob.

ZIMBABWE

An August opinion piece by Kamurai Mudzingwa, published in the government-run Zimbabwe Herald, suggests that a mafia-style criminal organization is on the rise in that African nation.

The author cites threats of violence against national bank Governor Gideon Gono, an increase in gang membership, heightened money-laundering activity and the involvement of police officers in corruption crimes.

OTHER NEWS ITEMS

Pirates have attacked merchant and United Nations aid ships in the Strait of Malacca six times since April. The strait, bounded by Malaysia and Singapore on one side and Sumatra, Indonesia, on the other, recently shed a dangerous reputation. Piracy fell to an all-time low last year. However, pirates appear to be making a comeback.

A Japanese cargo ship used fire hoses July 4 to prevent pirates from boarding. The pirates used an unlit speedboat to approach the cargo ship from Sumatra island. They attempted to board the vessel from the stern.

On July 2, two U.N.-chartered ships were boarded and robbed in the strait. The vessels, sailing for the World Food Program, were carrying construction material for a tsunami recovery project. Pirates stole equipment on one ship and robbed crewmembers of cash and personal belongings on the other.

Each year more than 50,000 ships, carrying half of the world's oil and a third of its commerce, operate in the strait.

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Law enforcement officers in mid-August arrested 31 people linked to a human-trafficking ring in the Northeast U.S..

Sixty-seven young Korean women were taken into protective custody, freed from a network of 20 or so brothels. The women were allegedly brought into the country illegally and put to work as prostitutes.

Brothels hidden behind innocent-looking storefronts were found in Norwalk, CT, Washington DC, New York City.