

The United States Attorney's Office

Eastern District of New York



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PRESS RELEASE

FORMER HIP-HOP MANAGER JAMES ROSEMOND, ALSO KNOWN AS "JIMMY HENCHMAN," CONVICTED OF LEADING A CONTINUING CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE

Additional Counts of Conviction Include Narcotics Trafficking, Firearms Offenses, Money Laundering, Structuring and Obstruction of Justice

Following a three-week trial, a federal jury in Brooklyn today returned a verdict convicting James Rosemond, also known as "Jimmy Henchman," of being the leader of a continuing criminal enterprise (the "Rosemond Organization") that distributed thousands of pounds of cocaine, the majority of which was sold on the streets of Brooklyn and Queens. The defendant was also convicted of using firearms in furtherance of his narcotics trafficking, being a felon in possession of a firearm, financial crimes involving money laundering and structuring, and obstruction of justice for his role in trying to keep one of his cocaine suppliers from providing information to federal law enforcement authorities about his Organization.

The convictions were announced by Loretta E. Lynch, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, Wilbert L. Plummer, Acting Special Agent-in-Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration, New York Field Division, and Victor W. Lessoff, Acting Special Agent-in-Charge, Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, New York.

The evidence at trial established that the Rosemond Organization was a large bi-coastal narcotics-trafficking organization that shipped cocaine from the Los Angeles, California area to the New York City Metropolitan area and that, in-turn, shipped cash proceeds of narcotics sales back to Los Angeles. The Organization used a variety of shipping methods as part of its operations, including Federal Express and UPS, to ship boxes of mustard-covered cocaine and drug money, and using a music equipment shipping company to ship cocaine and drug money concealed in music equipment cases. The Organization employed sophisticated encryption services on their email and telephone devices to prevent law enforcement from intercepting their communications.

During the course of this investigation, law enforcement made multiple seizures of the Rosemond Organization's drugs and money. In April 2010, law enforcement agents arrested four members of the Organization and seized 27 kilograms of cocaine. In connection with the arrests, agents searched one of the defendant's stash houses in Queens and seized a machine gun and ammunition, and a variety of drug trafficking paraphernalia. On the same day, agents also seized a vehicle containing a trap designed to conceal contraband. Subsequently, in December 2010, agents seized over \$785,000 stored in a music equipment case at a rehearsal studio in Manhattan. In total, between 2008 and 2010, law enforcement in New York and California seized over \$2.8 million of the Rosemond Organization's drug proceeds.

The trial testimony also established that on May 11, 2011, Rosemond, who was traveling in a vehicle equipped with a hidden compartment, sold one kilogram of cocaine to a cooperating witness. After an arrest warrant issued for him later that day, Rosemond fled, resulting in a nearly two-month-long manhunt which concluded with the defendant's arrest by the United States Marshals Service on June 21, 2011.

To date, 19 members and associates of the Rosemond Organization have been convicted of drug trafficking and money laundering as a result of this investigation.

"Rosemond built and ran this drug trafficking organization in order to personally enrich himself and his associates, with wanton disregard for the lives of the residents of our communities," stated United States Attorney Lynch. "Hiding behind his image as a music mogul, he pretended to work to bring music and creativity to his community. This trial showed he was nothing more than a calculating drug dealer, willing to peddle violence and devastation to that same community as long as he could profit from it. And profit he did. The paydays are over for the Henchman. This office is committed to using coordinated law enforcement techniques to rid our streets and neighborhoods from the scourge of cocaine and other controlled substances and will utilize all resources at our disposal to investigate and prosecute organized criminal enterprises who engage in narcotics distribution." Ms. Lynch extended her grateful appreciation to the Drug Enforcement Administration, New Field Office and the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, New York, the agencies that led the government's investigation, and thanked the U.S. Marshals Service and the Department of Justice, Office of Inspector General, for their assistance.

When sentenced by United States District Judge John Gleeson, James Rosemond faces a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment.

The government's case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Soumya Dayananda, Una A. Dean, Lan Nguyen, Todd Kaminsky, Carolyn Pokorny and Karen Hennigan.

The Defendant:

JAMES ROSEMOND

Age: 47
