

Athens, December 1, 2011

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Four (4) young foreigners were arrested, members of an international criminal organization that was transporting and trafficking drugs from South America into Europe**

*While making studies in private universities (laboratories of liberal studies) in Greece, their mission was to legitimize the proceeds of the criminal organization*

*More than 20 million Euro were found in bank account statements, as well as 65 thousand Euro in cash*

*Three (3) more individuals are involved in the case, who are the leaders of the organization*

Four (4) foreigners, Montenegrin citizens, members of an international criminal organization have been arrested trafficking drugs from countries of South America into European countries. The organization, which has been active at least since 2005, was chartering ships to transport large quantities of cocaine into Europe, as well as into Greece.

The arrest operation took place in the late afternoon of November 29, 2011, in the area of Voula, Athens, following a police investigation by the Organized Crime Department of the Attica Security Division, in the context of the warrant for preliminary examination, issued by the Athens District Court Prosecution Office.

The legal file created by the Organized Crime Department involves three (3) more individuals, Montenegrin citizens too, who are the leaders of the international criminal organization.

Upon order of the Athens District Court Prosecutor, the identity details and photos of the seven (7) individuals accused as members of the criminal organization are publicized, for purposes of protecting society and fulfilling the state's value for the punishment of the above offences. The afore-mentioned individuals are:

**Arrested**

1. (last name) **KAPETANOVIC** (first name) **Duro** son of Krsto and Cidja born 04-06-1991 in Montenegro



2. (last name) **DUDIC** (first name) **Damjan** son of Dragan and Zoja, born 04-05-1986 in Kotor, Montenegro



3. (last name) SAMARDZIC (first name) Sasa son of Smiljan and Nadja, born 26-10-1990 in Serbia, Montenegrin citizen



4. (last name) DUDIC (first name) Srdana daughter of Dragan and Zoja, born 08-02-1982 in Montenegro



Co-accused, not arrested

5. (last name) SARIC (first name) Darko, son of Miro, born 21-10-1970 in Montenegro



6. (last name) **RADULOVIC** (first name) **Rodoljub** son of Ljubomir, born 03-11-1948 in Risan, Kotor, Montenegro



7. (last name) **SOKOVIC** (first name) **Goran**, born 05-12-1971 in Montenegro



According to the police investigation that preceded the arrest, the four (4) youngsters were students private universities (laboratories of liberal studies) in Athens, were not working, and had been delegated the task of legitimizing the proceeds of the organization. They trafficked huge amounts of money via banks and offshore companies, they were placing money in bank safe-deposit boxes, and had purchased luxury real estate properties at the southern suburbs of Athens.

During the police operation, their two (2) owned luxurious residences in Voula were searched in the presence of a prosecuting officer, and numerous documents related to legitimization of proceeds have been found, as well as documents and vouchers proving the circulation of large amounts of money -the sums circulated were 20 million Euros- between bank accounts and offshore companies, and the amount of 65 thousand Euros in cash. Moreover, two luxury cars and one motorcycle were found, which were confiscated as products of legitimization of proceeds from illegal acts.

Yesterday afternoon, the arrested were taken before the Athens District Court Prosecutor, who indicted them to the Examining Magistrate.

The legal file compiled has also included an associated investigation conducted for this purpose by the Arms and Drugs Department of the Financial and Economic Crime Unit.

All four (4) persons arrested and the three (3) leading members are accused of participating in criminal organization, repetitious and habitual legitimization of proceeds, within the context of the criminal organization, on account and to the benefit thereof. Moreover, they are considered to be particularly dangerous offenders,

charged with bringing narcotic drugs into the country, purchasing, holding and selling drugs jointly, repeatedly and habitually.

In relation to the action of the specific criminal organization, it is pointed out that two (2) years ago (December 2009), upon collaboration between the Financial and Economic Crime Unit and the authorities of Peru and US DEA, a quantity of 20 kilograms of cocaine was seized in our country, which the organization had attempted to traffic. In the beginning of 2009, the Italian Authorities seized 215 kilograms of cocaine, while, within the same year, the Authorities of Uruguay with US DEA seized more than 2 tons of cocaine, off the coast in the Atlantic Ocean, in a ship chartered by the organization.