



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Federal Indictment of 42 Alleged Bloods Members Shows Further Cooperation between DPSCS and Law Enforcement

TOWSON, MD (May 28, 2009)---Maryland's U.S. attorney today once again praised the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) for helping to carry out an extensive operation leading to the sweeping indictment of 42 people whose alleged ties to a Bloods sect involved people both in prison and on the streets of Baltimore.

"This is further evidence of how we're working more closely with local, state, and federal law enforcement on everything from gang issues to contraband interdiction on a daily basis," says DPSCS Secretary Gary Maynard. "And these efforts are paying off. This should serve notice that committing crimes in our institutions will not be tolerated."

Today's indictment alleges that monitored cell phone conversations indicated that Bloods members were attempting to send money from street drug deals to imprisoned gang members to help them pay attorney fees and buy minutes for cell phones smuggled into the prisons. A contraband smuggling plan was also discussed.

Just two weeks ago, Division of Correction (DOC) intelligence officers teamed with law enforcement to use an inmate's modified cell phone in prison to connect two people to a 2008 murder in Baltimore City, and to record conversations implicating at least five other violent criminals who are believed to have committed a dozen other killings.

Calling that project "Operation Dial a Cell," federal prosecutors hailed DOC and DPSCS' work as "bold and creative undercover investigating" and say more charges are likely. In addition to the two people indicted on the Baltimore home invasion and murder, federal authorities say five other violent criminals responsible for at least 12 murders, have also been identified thanks to the cell phone recording effort.

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