

Dominican woman living in Massachusetts sentenced for Fentanyl trafficking for Mexican Sinaloa Cartel

"BOSTON – A Dominican woman has been sentenced for possessing seven kilograms of fentanyl as well as one kilogram of fentanyl and fentanyl analogue intended for distribution.

Ana Checo, 42, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Indira Talwani on Dec. 7, 2023 to 135 months in prison and five years of supervised release. On Sept. 6, 2023, Checo pleaded guilty to one count of possession with intent to distribute 400 grams or more of fentanyl and 100 grams or more of valeryl fentanyl and one count of money laundering conspiracy.

"The devastating impact fentanyl continues to have on our communities cannot be overstated," said Acting United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy. "This sentence underscores our unwavering determination to identify and bring to justice those responsible for putting deadly fentanyl on our streets. Our office will continue to use every resource at our disposal to dismantle criminal enterprises that seek to profit off of addiction and misery."

"Fentanyl is causing tremendous damage to the state of Massachusetts," said Brian D. Boyle, Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration, New England Division. "Let this sentence be a warning to those traffickers who are distributing this poison in order to profit and destroy people's lives. DEA's top priority is combatting the opioid epidemic by working with our local, county, state and federal partners to bring to justice anyone who distributes this

deadly drug.”

In June 2019, Checo was identified as a member of a large-scale drug trafficking and money laundering organization working with drug suppliers based in Sinaloa, Mexico. Specifically, Checo was responsible for receiving narcotics – namely fentanyl – from the drug suppliers for distribution in Massachusetts, as well as delivering drug proceeds in bulk cash to money launderers who laundered the proceeds back to the suppliers in Mexico.

In June 2019, Checo delivered \$58,510 in drug proceeds to an undercover officer for laundering. In July 2019, a search of Checo’s residence resulted in the recovery of approximately over 12 kilograms of narcotics – including seven kilograms of fentanyl, four kilograms of tramadol, one kilogram of a fentanyl and fentanyl analogue mixture and half a kilogram of a hallucinogen. The drugs were found stored in bags inside Checo’s bedroom closet as well as her daughter’s bedroom closet. Also seized was \$18,325 in cash as well as several notebooks that detailed drug transactions dating back to 2017.

In April 2020, Checo arranged to deliver \$250,000 in bulk cash to an undercover agent posing as a money launderer who had accepted a contract to launder the money from a money broker. Similarly, in April and May 2021, Checo arranged to deliver \$100,000 to undercover agents posing as money launderers who had accepted contracts to launder the money from money brokers.

In April 2020, nearly \$250,000 in bundled cash was seized from Checo as she was traveling to deliver the money to an undercover officer for laundering. Similarly, over two separate occasions in April and May 2021, Checo delivered a total of \$200,000 to undercover agents for laundering. On May 26, 2021, in Peabody, Mass., Checo met with a tractor trailer driver and received a suitcase that contained 55 kilograms of fentanyl – worth over \$1 million. The fentanyl was ultimately

seized later that day.

Acting U.S. Attorney Levy and DEA SAC Boyle made the announcement. Assistant U.S. Attorney Katherine Ferguson of the Narcotics & Money Laundering Unit prosecuted the case.”-
Massachusetts Department of Justice.