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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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News Advisory

Gregorio Gonzalez, 56, and Gerardo Bello, 21, both of 119 New Street in Mamaroneck, New York, were arraigned this evening before Queens Criminal Court Judge William Harrington on charges of second-degree grand larceny, second-degree criminal possession of stolen property and first-degree scheme to defraud. If convicted, they each face up to 15 years in prison.

Judge Harrington ordered the two defendants held without bail and ordered them to return to court on April 28, 2009.

Gregorio Gonzalez's sister Maria Gonzalez, 52, of 55-08 97th Place in Corona, Queens, was previously arraigned last month – March 23rd and March 27th – on two criminal complaints charging her with second- and third-degree grand larceny and second- and third-degree criminal possession of stolen property. Gonzalez, who also faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted, had bail set at \$5,000 in each case. Her next court date is May 12, 2009.

Gregorio Gonzalez and Gerardo Bello, who operate a storefront church in Corona, are charged with defrauding at least seventy Queens immigrants – primarily from the Ecuadorian community – of more than \$500,000 by promising to help them expedite various immigration related matters – including getting them U.S. Visas and permanent immigration status. Maria Gonzalez is charged with participating in the scheme.

Gregorio Gonzalez is represented by Donald L. Schechter (718-279-2131)

Gerardo Bello is represented by Debra Friendenberg (718-261-3047 x 512)

Maria Gonzalez is represented by Donald R. Schechter (718-263-4450)

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