



## Cortland Police Department

### **Press Release- Lieutenant David M. Guerrero 607-758-8307**

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**Friday, June 25, 2010**

On Wednesday June 23, 2010, at approximately 1:08 PM, Officers from the City of Cortland Police Department responded to the area of 138 Clinton Avenue for a report of recovered property. A person residing in the area reported finding two gallon sized zip lock type bags containing marihuana. The investigating officers located a third bag containing marihuana in the yard behind 138 Clinton Avenue. Marihuana, evidence demonstrating the packaging and transportation of marihuana, a loaded shotgun, and automatic rifle ammunition and magazines were observed inside the residence. The male resident of 138 Clinton Avenue was interviewed. The resident admitted that the bags of marihuana were stolen from his residence, additional marihuana was located inside the residence, and a rifle was located inside the residence. The resident was taken into custody and transported to the Cortland Police Department. A search warrant was obtained for the residence.

At about 6:00 PM the City of Cortland Police Department received a report that woman had just entered 138 Clinton Avenue through a window located on the East side of the residence. Officers located the woman, later identified as the girlfriend of the resident inside. The girlfriend was found to have moved evidence containing marihuana from the rear of the residence to the window from which she entered in an attempt to remove the evidence from the dwelling. The girlfriend was arrested and transported to the Cortland Police Department. Marihuana and prescription drugs were observed in her motor vehicle. The vehicle, which was used to transport her to the residence, was seized as evidence.

At approximately 6:20 PM members of the Cortland County Drug Task Force (CCDTF) execute a search warrant at 138 Clinton Avenue. The evidence that was seized included: marihuana, scales, packaging, glass smoking devices, large duffle bags containing marihuana residue, .223 caliber ammunition, .223 caliber ammunition magazines, a loaded 12 gauge shotgun, and a large safe. A second search warrant was obtained to search the contents of the safe.

On Thursday June 24, 2010 at approximately 3:23 PM the search warrant was executed on the safe. Located inside the safe was a Smith and Wesson MP 15 .223 caliber rifle, a large sum of United States Currency, a large quantity of gold, silver, and copper, coins, and jewelry. The rifle was equipped with a telescoping stock, pistol grip, a bayonet mount, and flash suppressor which constitute an assault weapon under New York State Law.

The investigation is on going. The following two individuals have been charged.

Ralph I Zogheib                    26     138 Clinton Avenue Cortland, NY  
Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Third Degree                    Class D Felony  
Criminal Possession of Marihuana in the Second Degree                    Class D Felony



Tina E Chickery                    25     6 Sassafras Court Poughkeepsie, NY  
Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Third Degree                    Class D Felony  
Criminal Tampering with Physical Evidence                    Class E Felony  
Obstructing Governmental Administration in the Second Degree                    Class a Misdemeanor  
Unlawful Possession of Marihuana                    Violation.



Zogheib and Chickery were both arraigned in Cortland City Court on June 24, 2010 and remanded to the Cortland County Jail without bail. They reappeared in City Court on June 25, 2010 at 9:30 AM for bail re-consideration. Zogheib's bail was set at \$5,000.00 cash or \$10,000.00 bond. Chickery's bail was set at \$2,000.00 or \$4,000.00 bond. Both posted bail and are scheduled to reappear in Cortland City Court on July 15, 2010.

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