

Full transcript released of Hugo Carvajal's June 2025 guilty plea hearing

United States v. Maduro Moros et al. · S.D.N.Y. No. 1:11-cr-00205

Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein · Docket entry #249 · Filed 2025-07-09 · Filed by: Court

What happened

The document is the transcript of the June 25, 2025 hearing at which Hugo 'El Pollo' Carvajal pleaded guilty to all four counts against him: narco-terrorism conspiracy, cocaine importation conspiracy, and two counts tied to possessing and conspiring to possess machine guns and destructive devices in furtherance of drug trafficking. Judge Alvin Hellerstein questioned Carvajal at length to confirm the plea was voluntary, and Carvajal admitted the essential elements of each count, though his defense reserved the right to contest several sentencing enhancements sought by prosecutors. The judge set sentencing for October 29, 2025.

What it means

Carvajal was formally adjudged guilty on all four counts, but there was no plea agreement with prosecutors, meaning disputes over the sentencing guidelines calculations may be resolved at an evidentiary ('Fatico') hearing before final sentencing. Prosecutors stated the combined mandatory minimum sentence would be 50 years in prison, with a statutory maximum of life.

What happens next

Per the verified case record, Carvajal's sentencing was postponed on April 16, 2026, with no new date set.

Key passages from the filing (verbatim)

"So the aggregate or total mandatory minimum term of incarceration is 50 years imprisonment."

Page 13 — States the combined mandatory minimum sentence Carvajal faces from his guilty plea.

"I admit that I conspired with others to possess with the intent to distribute 5 kilograms or more of cocaine knowingly and with the intention to provide something of value to the group known as FARC, and I knew that the FARC was involved in terrorist activities."

Page 27 — Carvajal's own admission of guilt on Count One, the narco-terrorism conspiracy charge.

"We are not agreeing to the Pimentel letter. As your Honor suggested, it's just a suggestion from the government."

Page 23 — Shows the defense did not agree to the government's proposed sentencing enhancements, leaving disputes for later.

Docket text (official, in English)

TRANSCRIPT of Proceedings as to Hugo Armando Carvajal-Barrios re: Plea held on 6/25/2025 before Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein. Court Reporter/Transcriber: Nicole DIMasi, (212) 805-0320, Transcript may be viewed at the court public terminal or purchased through the Court Reporter/Transcriber before the deadline for Release of Transcript Restriction. After that date it may be obtained through PACER. Redaction Request due 7/30/2025. Redacted Transcript Deadline set for 8/11/2025. Release of Transcript Restriction set for 10/7/2025. (McGuirk, Kelly) (Entered: 07/09/2025)

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