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Southern District of New York*

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U.S. INDICTS VINCENT CORRAO ON RACKETEERING CHARGES  
AS LONG-TIME GAMBINO CRIME FAMILY SOLDIER

DAVID N. KELLEY, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and PASQUALE D'AMURO, the Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, announced the unsealing of an eight-count indictment in Manhattan Federal Court, charging VINCENT CORRAO, a/k/a "Vinnie Butch," with racketeering, extortion, loansharking, and the operation of an illegal gambling business in the New York metropolitan area.

The Indictment charges that CORRAO is a member of the Gambino Organized Crime Family. According to the Indictment, CORRAO was at various times an Associate, a Soldier, and an Acting Capo of the Gambino Organized Crime Family. CORRAO is the son of JOSEPH CORRAO, a/k/a "Joe Butch," who was a Capo in the

Gambino Organized Crime Family before his death in 2001. In the mid-1990's, while his father was serving a term of imprisonment, CORRAO allegedly became an Acting Capo in the Gambino Organized Crime Family, taking over his father's crew. As a Soldier and Acting Capo, CORRAO's alleged responsibilities included supervising the illegal activities of Soldiers and Associates in his crew and resolving disputes with other organized crime families. Among CORRAO's alleged criminal activities were participation in the extortion of money from various businesses and individuals, the operation of illegal gambling businesses, and the financing, making, and collection of extortionate extensions of credit (commonly known as "loansharking").

According to the Indictment, for years CORRAO and his associates extorted protection money from various legitimate businesses in the New York area through the use of fear and intimidation. CORRAO is charged particularly with extorting the owners and operators of Tribecca, a nightclub formerly located in Fort Lee, New Jersey, and Areo's, an Italian restaurant located in Brooklyn. In addition, in order to enforce their will and collect money, CORRAO and others allegedly resorted to physical violence, assaulting a victim who owed a debt to one of CORRAO's associates. According to the indictment, CORRAO and his associates also intimidated and threatened various individuals during the course of a long-term loansharking conspiracy.

Finally, as charged, CORRAO operated a lucrative illegal gambling operation in order to make money for the Gambino Organized Crime Family.

The Indictment also contains criminal forfeiture allegations regarding the property unlawfully obtained by CORRAO as a made member of the Gambino Crime Family. Specifically, the Indictment seeks to forfeit at least \$750,000 from CORRAO and seeks to forfeit CORRAO's residence as substitute assets.

If convicted of racketeering or racketeering conspiracy, CORRAO faces a maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment. For each extortion or extortion conspiracy count and for each loansharking count, CORRAO faces upon conviction a maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment.

CORRAO will be arraigned this afternoon by United States Magistrate Judge NATHANIEL FOX, in Manhattan federal court at 500 Pearl Street.

CORRAO, 37, resides in Monsey, New York.

Mr. KELLEY expressed his appreciation to the Rockland County District Attorney's Office for its invaluable assistance in the investigation.

Assistant United States Attorneys PREET BHARARA and LESLIE C. BROWN are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and

until proven guilty.

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