

## Sentencing set in money laundering

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Hundreds of thousands of dollars from drug trafficking and kidnapping ransoms systematically deposited into bank accounts in San Diego County have landed a Chula Vista woman in federal court, where she faces a sentence tomorrow of up to five years in prison.

Patricia Palacios, 33, who pleaded guilty in May to money laundering, has admitted to conspiring with her husband, a member of the Arellano Felix drug cartel, to move more than \$822,000 in cash through Bank of America and Wells Fargo accounts.

As a result of her guilty plea, a judge in September ordered that she turn over to the government her Chula Vista home, estimated to be worth nearly \$1 million.

The judge also ordered her to forfeit four luxury vehicles, plus more than \$146,000 from four bank accounts.

Palacios' husband, Gilbert Camacho, is in a Mexican prison. U.S. authorities are seeking his extradition.

In an indictment, prosecutors said that for six years, Camacho protected drug shipments and kidnapped and killed rival drug traffickers, informants and other cartel enemies, sometimes collecting ransoms.

Palacios admitted she had deposited cash into local accounts in increments of less than \$10,000 in an effort to keep the banks from reporting the transactions to the government.

She said she knew the money came from criminal activity.

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