
US ARRESTS YAKUZA LEADER OVER ALLEGED DRUGS FOR MISSILES DEAL

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The United States has arrested a leader of the Japanese yakuza and three Thai men, accusing them of trafficking heroin and methamphetamine and trying to acquire US-made surface-to-air missiles for armed groups in Myanmar and Sri Lanka.

Takeshi Ebisawa, Sompak Rukrasarane, Somphob Singhasiri and Suksan Jullanan were arrested in New York on Monday and Tuesday on drug and arms trafficking and money laundering charges, the Justice Department said.

The drugs were destined for New York streets, and the weapons shipments were meant for factions in unstable nations, Damian Williams, the US attorney for the southern district of New York, said in a statement. Members of this international crime syndicate can no longer put lives in danger.

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