



# Department of Justice

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## **GEORGIA MEN SENTENCED FOR KILLING A GUARD DURING ATTEMPTED ARMORED TRUCK ROBBERY IN ATLANTA**

ATLANTA, GA -- Four men from southeastern Georgia were sentenced in federal court to prison terms of between 25 years and life for their roles in an attempt to rob an armored truck in Atlanta in October 2003. One guard was shot and killed in the robbery attempt in a Cascade Road shopping center, and another guard was shot several times, but survived.

"This case is tragic because of the murder of Mustafa Koura, a young husband who also supported his mother in Egypt, and the shooting of Izzay Denney, who nearly lost his life while his wife was pregnant with their first child," said United States Attorney David E. Nahmias. "We are satisfied that a measure of justice has been done for these victims, and the perpetrators of the shooting will serve lengthy prison terms."

United States District Court Judge Julie E. Carnes sentenced ERNEST ROMOND GIBBS, JR., 26, of Surrency, Georgia, to life in federal prison. On October 25, 2005, a jury in federal district court convicted GIBBS of conspiring to rob an armored truck with several co-defendants, aiding and abetting his co-defendants in attempting to rob an armored truck on October 3, 2003, and aiding and abetting his co-defendants in the use of firearms in the robbery attempt, resulting in the death of Mr. Koura.

Carnes sentenced MICHAEL JERALD LEGGETT, 29, of Jesup, to 40 years in prison to be followed by 5 years of supervised release; RICKY ANTONIO CARTER, 25, of Baxley, to 25 years in prison to be followed by 5 years of supervised release, and TRAVIS MCKENZIE CARTER, 23, to 25 years in prison to be followed by 5 years of supervised release. LEGGETT, RICKY CARTER and TRAVIS CARTER earlier pleaded guilty to the conspiracy and firearms charges. The three co-defendants testified against GIBBS and a fifth co-defendant, Ricardo Cortez Williams of Atlanta. The same jury that convicted GIBBS acquitted Williams of all charges in the case.

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the evidence presented in GIBBS' and Williams' trial:

In September 2003, defendant Williams had moved from Hazlehurst, Georgia and was working in Atlanta as a guard and driver for Bantek West, Inc., an armored truck company. Williams saw his wife's cousins RICKY and TRAVIS CARTER at a high school football game in Baxley, and he suggested that it would be easy to rob an armored truck. They originally planned to rob a truck that Williams was driving, but they changed their plan to rob the truck that serviced the Washington Mutual Bank at 3655 Cascade Road in southwest Atlanta. RICKY CARTER testified that he recruited MICHAEL LEGGETT and ERNEST GIBBS to be gunmen in the robbery.

RICKY and TRAVIS CARTER and LEGGETT testified that on October 3, 2003, they drove approximately 250 miles from their homes in southeast Georgia to the shopping center on Cascade Road and tried to rob the truck with GIBBS. The two CARTERS and LEGGETT testified that they planned the robbery based on the inside information that Williams had supplied them regarding the truck route and the guards' procedures. The three testified that they planned to confront the guards with pistols and take their money bags, but they did not expect to shoot the guards.

Despite that plan, TRAVIS CARTER and LEGGETT testified that LEGGETT and GIBBS had revolvers that they fired at the guards. GIBBS said in a signed confession made at his arrest that he and LEGGETT fired at the guards and he believed that he hit one of them. TRAVIS CARTER testified that he was supposed to grab the money bags, but he was unarmed, and he turned around and ran back to the getaway truck when the shooting started. The two CARTERS and LEGGETT testified that RICKY CARTER remained at the wheel of their getaway truck while the robbery attempt occurred. Bantek guard Izzay "J.R." Denney stopped the robbery attempt by firing several rounds at the attacking robbers, hitting LEGGETT twice in his leg. Bantek guard Mustafa Koura, 28, was shot once and killed. Denney was shot at least three times, but survived.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Fulton County Police Department, the Appling County Sheriff's Office, and the Baxley Police Department. Assistant United States Attorneys William G. Traynor and Aaron M. Danzig prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact United States Attorney Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), or Yonette Sam-Buchanan, Chief, Terrorism, Violent and Organized Crime Unit, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan/>.