



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758

March 27, 2008

EVENT: Guilty Verdict

Defendant: Joshua Bonderenka

YPSILANTI FELON CONVICTED OF POSSESSING STOLEN FIREARMS

Joshua Bonderenka, age 31, of Ypsilanti, Michigan, was found guilty on Wednesday, March 26, 2008 by a federal jury in Detroit, Michigan on four counts of an Indictment charging him with being a felon in possession of firearms and possession of stolen firearms, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

The jury deliberated for a little more than two hours before returning the verdict, concluding a trial that began on March 24, 2008, before United States District Judge Victoria Roberts.

The evidence at trial showed that Bonderenka and co-defendant Adam Burke broke into the home of Burke's uncle in Belleville, Michigan, stole over thirty firearms, and sold some of them to another person in exchange for cash and marijuana. Bonderenka and Burke were arrested after they sold four more guns to an undercover police officer while under surveillance by officers of the Grosse Ile Police Department and Trenton Police Department, and special agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Burke previously pled guilty to one count of felon in possession of a firearm.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "With gun violence at unacceptably high levels, black market sales of stolen guns are clearly a business that we need to stamp out. Today's conviction takes a street arms dealer out of commission."

SAC Brandon said, "Firearms trafficking is an ATF investigative priority. We remain committed to identifying and recommending for Federal prosecution the sources of illegal firearms that we know wind up being used on a consistent basis to commit violent crime. This investigation, and resulting conviction, is a direct result of an excellent partnership between ATF, the Grosse Ile Police Department, the Trenton Police Department and the United States Attorney's Office."

The defendant faces a maximum term of imprisonment of ten years on each of the four counts of conviction. The actual sentence imposed will depend on a number of factors, including the defendant's criminal record, and advisory Sentencing Guidelines. Sentencing is scheduled for August 4, 2008.

The case was investigated by special agents of the ATF and officers of the Grosse Ile Police Department and Trenton Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Chasteen.