



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INDIVIDUALS INDICTED BY FEDERAL GRAND JURY **FOR TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS**

BIRMINGHAM, AL - Alice H. Martin, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama, and James M. Cavanaugh, Special Agent in Charge, United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives announce that a federal grand jury has returned an indictment charging illegal gun trafficking against JACSON DEMOND WHITE, age 30, PEGGY LYNN KRATZ, age 27, both of Florence, Alabama, GINNY SUE BROWN, age 29, of Cherokee, Alabama, and MELINDA ANN BENNETT, age 28, of Russellville, Alabama.

According to the indictment, the defendants illegally purchased approximately twenty-one (21) firearms from federally licensed firearms dealers in Lauderdale and Colbert County for other individuals who then transported the firearms to the State of New York.

According to U.S. Attorney Alice H. Martin, "Alabama is a source state of illegal guns. This investigation and prosecution demonstrates this office's commitment to ensure that firearms are purchased in a legal manner."

The nine-count indictment also charges that between December 2006, and April 2007, the defendants conspired to make false statements in connection with the acquisition of firearms from a federally licensed firearms dealer.

Upon conviction on the conspiracy charge, the Defendants face a statutory maximum sentence of up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000, or both. The remaining counts of the indictment charge certain defendants with the making of false statements to licensed firearm dealers in connection with the purchase of firearms. Upon conviction for COUNTS TWO through FOUR, GINNY SUE BROWN is facing up

to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.00, or both on each count. Upon conviction for COUNT FIVE, JACSON DEMOND WHITE is facing up to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.00, or both. Upon conviction for COUNTS SIX and SEVEN, PEGGY LYNN KRATZ faces up to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.00, or both on each count. Upon conviction for COUNTS EIGHT and NINE, MELINDA ANN BENNETT also faces up to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.00, or both, on each count.

Special Agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives investigated this case. Assistant United States Attorney Alison S. Austin is prosecuting this case on behalf of the U.S. Government.

Members of the public are reminded that the indictment contains only charges. A defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

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