



U.S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**DEFENDANT CONVICTED AS RESULT OF UNDERCOVER  
STOREFRONT OPERATION ( AUGUSTA INK) IS SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS**

AUGUSTA, GA: Edmund A. Booth, Jr., United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced on July 16, 2008 that Nathaniel Eugene Jones, 20, was sentenced to 360 months (30 years) imprisonment in U.S. District Court in Augusta by U.S. District Judge Dudley H. Bowen, Jr. Jones had earlier a guilty plea to two counts of Using a Firearm During a Violent Crime under 18 U.S.C. § 924(c).

Booth noted that the evidence underlying the offenses of conviction connected Jones to a local shooting, which occurred at Club Dreams in Richmond County on February 7, 2007, and a carjacking committed on April 18, 2007. These crimes were solved primarily as a result of the 16-month undercover operation, dubbed "Augusta Ink," wherein undercover agents and detectives posing as owners and employees of the "Colur Tyme Tattoos and Things" tattoo parlor on Tobacco Road in Hephzibah, Georgia, purchased firearms and other contraband from store patrons. In the instant case, the firearm used by Jones in the shooting at Club Dreams was purchased by undercover officers in the tattoo shop, and ballistically matched to evidence recovered from the Club Dreams crime scene. Undercover agents also purchased the hijacked Mercedes Benz from Jones and a co-defendant, the day after the car-jacking took place.

The investigation , which led to this successful prosecution, involved the cooperative efforts of the Richmond County Sheriff' 's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

Booth stated that this case was federally prosecuted as part of the district's Project Ceasefire initiative, a program devoted to reducing gun violence by prosecuting individuals found in possession of firearms who cannot legally possess them, such as felons and drug dealers; and through the district's Anti-Gang initiative.

The government is being represented by Assistant United States Attorney Patricia Green Johnson.

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