

Eastern District of California United States Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 17, 2006

THREE INDIVIDUALS SENTENCED TODAY IN "ELF" ECO-TERRORISM ARSONS COMMITTED IN PLACER COUNTY IN LATE 2004 AND EARLY 2005

SACRAMENTO, CA--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott, FBI Special Agent-in-Charge Drew S. Parenti, and ATF Special Agent-in-Charge Paul Vido announced today RYAN DANIEL LEWIS, age 22, of Newcastle, EVA ROSE HOLLAND, age 26, of Newcastle, and LILI MARIE HOLLAND, age 21, of Newcastle, were sentenced today by United States District Court Judge Edward J. Garcia for a string of arsons and attempted arsons in Placer County in 2005, committed on behalf of the Earth Liberation Front, an eco-terrorist movement.

These cases were the result of an intensive investigation by the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives.

According to Assistant United States Attorney R. Steven Lapham, who prosecuted the cases, all three defendants pled guilty on October 14, 2005. The sentences imposed were as follows:

RYAN LEWIS, convicted of two counts of attempted arson and one count of arson, was sentenced to 72 months, a three-year term of supervised release, and restitution in the amount of \$243,034.73.

In his guilty plea to Count 2 of the Superceding Indictment, Attempted Arson, LEWIS admitted that on December 24, 2004 he recruited the three co-defendants to accompany him to the Twelve Bridges housing development in Lincoln, California, for the purpose of placing incendiary devices in two homes under construction. On December 25, 2004, the four defendants did in fact place the devices in the two homes and rigged them to function. However, the devices failed to function as intended. The defendants also spray painted ELF-related graffiti on one of the homes as well as painting the letters "ELF" on the cul-de-sac where the homes were located.

In his guilty plea to Count 4, Attempted Arson, LEWIS admitted that on January 12, 2005, he placed five incendiary devices in a commercial building under construction in Auburn, California. In his guilty plea to Count 5, LEWIS further admitted that on February 7, 2005, he placed seven incendiary devices in five buildings of the Pinewoods Apartment Homes complex in Sutter Creek, CA. Some of the renters were scheduled to move in that same day and, unknown

to the defendant, an apartment manager was already occupying one of the targeted buildings. Graffiti found at the site included "ELF" and "We will win" in red paint. One of the devices did in fact ignite and cause damage, while the other six were extinguished by the sprinkler system.

EVA HOLLAND, convicted of one count of attempted arson, was sentenced to 24 months in prison, a three-year term of supervised release, and a \$2,000 fine. In her guilty plea to Count 2 of the Superceding Indictment, Attempted Arson, Ms. Holland admitted participating in the December 25, 2004 planned arson of the Twelve Bridges housing development in Lincoln, California. Judge Garcia ordered Ms. HOLLAND to self surrender on April 28, 2006.

LILI HOLLAND, also convicted of one count of attempted arson for the December 25, 2004 incident in Lincoln, California was also sentenced to 24 months in prison, a three-year term of supervised release, and a \$2,000 fine. Judge Garcia ordered Ms. HOLLAND to self surrender on April 28, 2006.

The remaining co-defendant in the case, JEREMIAH DEAN COLCLEASURE, age 24, of Newcastle, pled guilty on March 3, 2006 to Count 2 of the Superceding Indictment, Attempted Arson. His sentencing is scheduled before Judge Edward J. Garcia on May 19, 2006.

United States Attorney Scott stated, "Domestic terrorists mistakenly believe they are on the moral high ground, but their actions are those of cowards which result in the destruction of property and place innocent people's lives in jeopardy. Let today's sentencings be a warning to idealistic young people that if they make the wrong decisions, they will spend several years in prison."

Special Agent in Charge Parenti stated, "Today, three young people were sentenced for their actions in a series of arsons and attempted arson attacks in the Sacramento region. These young people crossed the line between advocacy of their cause and direct action which constituted criminal behavior, behavior in this case which caused substantial property damage and could have caused serious injuries to innocent citizens."

"ATF is committed to fighting terrorism, and together with our partners on the Joint Terrorism Task Force, we are pleased to bring justice and closure to this case," said Paul J. Vido of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, San Francisco Field Division.