



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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February 14, 2008

EVENT: Sentenced

Defendant: Hassan Aljibory

“DETROIT THUG LORDZ” MEMBER SENTENCED TO 2 1/2 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON

Iraqi Native To Be Deported Following Term Of Imprisonment

Hassan Aljibory, 21, of Warren was sentenced to 30 months imprisonment in federal court today, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced. Joining in the announcement was Special Agent-In-Charge Thomas E. Brandon, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

Aljibory pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine, powder cocaine, and marijuana before United States District Judge David Lawson on September 19, 2007. In addition to this conviction, Aljibory has 20 outstanding warrants from state courts throughout southeastern Michigan.

As part of his plea, Aljibory admitted to membership in the “Detroit Thug Lordz” or “DTL,” an armed drug trafficking gang in northwest Detroit, and to distributing crack cocaine on the gang's behalf. The Detroit Thug Lordz territory ran along West Warren Avenue and extended from Evergreen to the Southfield Freeway. The group maintained drug houses on Woodmont, Lawndale, Winthrop, Rockdale, Longacre, and Rosemont Streets. Firearms were kept at and moved among the various houses for protection. Drug sales were accomplished

through calls to pre-arranged cellular telephone numbers and deliveries made with rented vehicles. Gang members were paid as much as \$5,000 per month for distributing various drugs, including crack cocaine, powder cocaine, and marijuana. Minors were used to distribute drugs on the gang's behalf.

Federal agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives ("ATF"), assisted by Detroit Police Department officers, investigated the gang's activities between May 2, 2006 and February 13, 2007. Fifteen undercover purchases of crack cocaine, powder cocaine, and marijuana were made. Four of the gang's drug houses were raided and additional seizures were made from gang members' vehicles. In total, agents secured 66 grams of crack cocaine, 67 grams of powder cocaine, and 4.6 kilograms of marijuana.

After the DTL indictment was unsealed, Aljibory fled to Mexico, along with co-defendant Michael Moreno. He was arrested by border patrol agents in El Paso, Texas attempting to reenter the United States on May 23, 2007.

Aljibory was born in Najif, Iraq, and entered the United States as a refugee in September 1997. As a result of his felony conviction, he is subject to deportation after serving his sentence.

"Gangs like the Thug Lordz can be beaten when federal, state, and local law enforcement team up with community groups to fight organized drug trafficking and the dangers it brings to our neighborhoods," said U.S. Attorney Murphy. "That is the purpose of our Operation TIDE, which partners all law enforcement stakeholders in the City of Detroit to provide hope to residents and to take violent drug offenders off the streets. Today's sentence is an example of the results that can be achieved from such teamwork."

"The sentence to be served by this gang member reiterates the need for focused task forces like Operation TIDE. We will continue our joint enforcement efforts to rid the City of Detroit of the violence that is bred by drugs and guns," stated Acting-SAC Temple.

On February 4, another DTL member, Rodolfo Moreno, 20, was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment. His younger brother, Michael Moreno, was sentenced to 32 months imprisonment for his role in the Detroit Thug Lordz conspiracy. Michael Moreno had pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute cocaine and marijuana on September 19, 2007.

Still awaiting sentencing for their drug trafficking activities are co-defendants Nicholas Jaime, a/k/a Kilo, 21, of Detroit; Randi Carl Diggs, 19, of Detroit; and Karen Haskins, 49, of Detroit. Two defendants in the case, Isaias Quesada, 23, of Detroit, and Omar Gladson, 20, of Detroit are scheduled for trial on April 8.

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Operation TIDE is the unprecedented, long-term law enforcement and community collaboration where federal, state, county and local law enforcement officials meet regularly and work in cooperation to reduce violent crimes and prevent recidivism by focusing on the “worst of the worst” in Northwest Detroit, Detroit’s largest police district.

Other PSN Operation TIDE Task Force partners include the U.S. Marshals Service, the FBI, the Wayne County Sheriff’s Department, the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office, and the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Citizens with information concerning illegal guns, gangs with guns, armed drug trafficking or the trafficking of illegal guns are encouraged to call 800-ATF-GUNS. Callers can remain anonymous. This number is managed and answered by law enforcement, ATF agents who work directly with local police departments. For information about Project Safe Neighborhoods call 1-800-891-8881 or visit www.psnworks.org.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Leonid Feller.