



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of Maryland*

*Allen F. Loucks
United States Attorney*

*Vickie E. LeDuc
Public Information Officer*

*36 South Charles Street
Fourth Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-3020*

*410-209-4800
TTY/TDD: 410-962-4462
410-209-4885
FAX 410-962-3091
Vickie.LeDuc@usdoj.gov*

**JUNE 2, 2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION CONTACT
VICKIE E. LEDUC, AUSA
(410) 209-4885**

LEADER OF BANK ROBBERY RING SENTENCED TO 235 MONTHS

BALTIMORE, Maryland - United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Allen F. Loucks announces that today U.S. District Court Chief Judge Benson E. Legg sentenced Mario D. Simuel, age 41, of Baltimore, Maryland to 235 months in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release in connection with his guilty plea to armed bank robbery. Judge Legg also ordered Simuel to pay \$105,352 in restitution.

According to the agreed statement of facts presented to the court, from July 23, 2003 to October 17, 2003, Simuel, along with co-defendants Duane Curtis Chase, Kevin McNeill, Joseph Shawn McKenney, Kafia Joneifa Burnett, Cierra Danita Dillard, Kenneth James Eads, Shatika Nicole Lawson and Devon Wendell Little conspired to commit the following armed bank robberies and bank robberies in Maryland:

7/23/03	First Mariner Bank, 60 Painters Mill Bank, Baltimore	\$11,341
8/12/03	Wachovia Bank, 1730 York Road, Lutherville	5,911
8/14/03	Provident Bank of Maryland, 2934 O'Donnell St., Baltimore	2,013
8/20/03	M&T Bank, 9840 Reistertown Rd., Owings Mills	12,737
8/25/03	M&T Bank, 705 Frederick Rd., Catonsville	14,054
9/10/03	Mercantile Bank, 6227 N. Charles St., Towson	35,379
9/29/03	Wachovia Bank, 1730 York Rd., Lutherville	23,917

Simuel, the leader of the group, planned all of the bank robberies and went into at least one bank, knowing that items appearing to be guns were used to rob the bank. Simuel also recruited others to rob banks. He received proceeds from each of the robberies. A toy gun was brandished at three of the robberies. A threat of death was made at all the robberies.

The following co-defendants were previously sentenced as follows on the below described dates:

Duane Chase	10/21/04	200 months in prison; 5 yrs. supervised release; and restitution of \$68,444
Cierra Dillard	11/9/04	366 days in prison; 3 years supervised release; and restitution of \$44,043
Kenneth Eads	11/1/04	51 months in prison; 3 years supervised release; and restitution of \$37,971
Devon Little	12/2/04	60 months in prison; 3 years supervised release; and restitution of \$35,379
Joseph McKenny	10/28/04	27 months in prison; 3 years supervised release; and restitution of \$14,054
Kevin McNeill	12/3/04	188 months in prison; 5 years supervised release and restitution of \$76,426

Co-defendants Kafia Burnett will be sentenced at 2:00 p.m. today and Shatika Lawson is scheduled to be sentenced on July 8, 2005.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Baltimore County Police Department and the Baltimore City Police Department, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Bonnie S. Greenberg.