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Connecticut Man Sentenced on Federal Firearms Charges

Bangor, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that **Isaiah Benton**, 23, of New Haven, Connecticut, was sentenced on February 12, 2009, in U.S. District Court in Bangor, Maine, to 1 year and 1 day of imprisonment, to be followed by 3 years supervised release, on each of the two felony offenses of Conspiracy to Make False Statements in the Acquisition of Firearms, and Aiding and Abetting the Transfer of a Firearm to an Out-of-State Resident. Benton pleaded guilty on September 17, 2008.

According to court records, in the summer of 2007, Benton told his girlfriend he did not have identification and needed a firearm for his protection in Connecticut. Benton asked his girlfriend to buy a firearm for him. Benton gave her \$300 to purchase a gun for him, and described the type and caliber of firearm he wanted. When buying the 9 mm pistol, she lied when she completed the required ATF Form 4473, by indicating the firearm was for her. She gave the gun to Benton. Later in the same month, a New Haven, Connecticut police officer stopped a car in which Benton was riding. During a search incident to the stop, the same 9 mm pistol that was purchased in Maine was found in the car.

United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Eastern Maine Violent Crimes Task Force, with the assistance of the New Haven, Connecticut Police Department.

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