



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1/19/07

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3 INDICTED ON WEAPONS, DRUG CHARGES RELATING TO THE SHOOTING OF AN ATF AGENT

Atlanta, GA - CHARDRIQUEZ ANTUAN DURDEN, 23, SONIA LYNETTE REED, 25, and PAUL ANDREW THOMPSON, 20, all of Lithonia, Georgia, have been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges resulting from the straw purchasing of two firearms by DURDEN and REED and the subsequent execution of a federal search warrant at the residence occupied by DURDEN and THOMPSON, during which DURDEN allegedly shot at federal agents, wounding one of them. THOMPSON and REED made their initial appearance this afternoon before Magistrate Judge Janet King. THOMPSON is being held pending a detention hearing next Wednesday. REED was granted \$25,000 bond. DURDEN's initial appearance has not yet been scheduled.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said of the case, "We see the tragic results of illegal straw purchases of firearms at crime scenes all over the country. In this case, the weapons never left the Atlanta area, and a federal agent was shot as a result. Anyone who assaults federal agents in the course of their lawful duties should expect to be prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

ATF Special Agent In Charge Vanessa McLemore said, "While we are relieved that none of our agents were seriously wounded, this does not minimize the severity of being fired upon or the dangers ATF agents encounter while combating firearms trafficking and violent crime."

According to United States Attorney Nahmias, the indictment, and other information presented in court: Beginning on October 31, 2005, SONIA LYNETTE REED purchased two weapons, a Taurus 9 mm caliber pistol and a Taurus .45 caliber pistol, from a pawn shop that has a federal firearms license in Conyers, Georgia. The indictment charges that REED falsely represented on the required firearms transaction Form 4473 that she was the true purchaser, when in fact REED was purchasing the weapons for her boyfriend, CHARDRIQUEZ DURDEN.

In December 2006, REED agreed to cooperate with police and made a consensually tape-recorded phone call to DURDEN. During this conversation, DURDEN allegedly admitted that he still possessed in his apartment one of the weapons purchased by REED. On December 15, 2006, when federal agents attempted to execute a federal search warrant at DURDEN's apartment, DURDEN allegedly fired several shots at agents through his apartment door, hitting and wounding one ATF agent. DURDEN's apartment was equipped with a surveillance camera that allowed him to see the agents and the marked police cars as they approached the apartment. A search of the apartment revealed one of the firearms that REED had allegedly previously straw-purchased from the pawn shop. Police also found suspected crack, powder cocaine, and a second firearm in the room occupied by DURDEN. In the room that was allegedly occupied by PAUL THOMPSON, officers found marijuana, cocaine, and another handgun.

DURDEN is charged with Aiding and Abetting the Straw Purchase of Firearms, Assault on a Federal Officer, Possession With Intent to Distribute Cocaine, and Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of Drug Trafficking and Crime of Violence Offenses. DURDEN faces a maximum sentence of 85 years in federal prison, with a mandatory minimum sentence of 35 years in federal prison. REED is charged with Aiding and Abetting the Straw Purchase of Firearms, and faces a maximum sentence of five years in federal prison. THOMPSON is charged with Being An Unlawful Drug User in Possession of a Firearm, and Possession of Marijuana and Cocaine. THOMPSON faces a maximum prison sentence of 12 years.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearm and Explosives (ATF), and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), with assistance from the DeKalb County Police Department.

Assistant United States Attorneys Sheila Arnum and Zahra Karinshak are prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.