



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney's Office
District of Delaware*

*The Nemours Building
1007 Orange St., Suite 700
P.O. Box 2046
Wilmington, Delaware 19899-2046*

*(302) 573-6277
FAX (302) 573-6220*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, January 14, 2009

David C. Weiss
Acting United States Attorney
(302) 573-6277

PRESS RELEASE

**WILMINGTON MAN RECEIVED 168-MONTH
SENTENCE FOR HOBBS ACT VIOLATION**

WILMINGTON, DE – David C. Weiss, Acting United States Attorney for the District of Delaware; Amy Jo Lyons, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Baltimore Field Office; and Theresa Stoop, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) Baltimore Field Office, announced today that District Court Judge Joseph J. Farnan, Jr. sentenced defendant GARY HAILE to 168 months imprisonment for his role in a violent home invasion and robbery of a Wilmington business owner. The 168-month sentence was at the top of the advisory Guidelines range.

HAILE was the first of four defendants to be sentenced for the home invasion and robbery of Mr. Hem Patel, owner of National Liquors in Wilmington. On September 3, 2008, HAILE pleaded guilty to a one-count Information charging him with conspiracy to interfere with interstate commerce by threats or violence (“Hobbs Act robbery”), in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(a). The other co-conspirators are JECONA JOHNSON, GARY WASHAM, and JASON ROBERTS.

Acting United States Attorney David C. Weiss said of the case: “This prosecution demonstrates our office’s commitment to combat violent crime throughout Delaware. The investigation of this case involved exemplary cooperation between the FBI and ATF violent crime task forces, which are comprised of members of the Delaware law enforcement community from agencies and departments throughout the state. The significant jail sentence hopefully puts violent criminals on notice that their actions will be dealt with harshly by our office and our law enforcement partners.”

FBI Supervisory Special Agent Scott Duffey and ATF Special Agent in Charge Theresa R. Stoop stated, “This case demonstrates the commitment of Delaware federal and state law enforcement agencies to identify, investigate, and prosecute violent criminal organizations in the State of Delaware. This case represented the combined efforts of the FBI’s Joint Violent Crime Safe Streets Task Force and ATF’s Operation Disarm Task Force. The sentence imposed this morning, as a result of our investigation should send a powerful message to violent criminals that they will be held accountable for their actions.”

This case was investigated by FBI and ATF. FBI’s Joint Violent Crime Safe Streets Task Force is comprised of FBI, Delaware State Police, New Castle County Police, Wilmington Police, and Delaware Probation and Parole. ATF’s Operation Disarm Task Force is comprised of ATF, Delaware State Police, New Castle County Police, Dover Police, and Wilmington Police. Assistant United States Attorney Robert F. Kravetz prosecuted the case.

For further information, contact Assistant United States Attorney Robert F. Kravetz or Acting United States Attorney David C. Weiss.
