



**U.S. Department of Justice**

**Stephen J. Murphy  
United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Michigan**

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**For Immediate Release:**

**Contact:** Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758  
Greg Palmore - ICE (313) 226-0726

March 3, 2008

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**EVENT: Sentenced**

**Defendant: Ali Salem**

**CHICAGO MAN SENTENCED TO 11 YEARS, 9 MONTHS  
IN "CRYSTAL METH" CONSPIRACY**

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A Chicago resident was sentenced today in federal court in Detroit for conspiring to distribute and import into the United States, through the metropolitan Detroit area, millions of tablets of pseudoephedrine, knowing that those pills would be used to manufacture a controlled substance, specifically, "crystal meth," announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Brian Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Detroit.

Receiving the sentence was Ali Salem, 30, of Chicago, Illinois.

United States District Judge Gerald E. Rosen sentenced Salem to 141 months imprisonment, followed by three years of supervised release.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "As this investigation amply shows, international cooperation can and does thwart high-volume purveyors of the precursor drugs used to make 'crystal meth.' Today's sentence should serve as a strong deterrent to those who would consider importing crystal meth or its precursor chemicals in the future. I commend

the excellent work of ICE, DEA and our Canadian partners – thanks to them, our special initiative to stamp out meth distribution is working.”

Previously, the information presented to the court at the time of Salem's plea in August 2007 revealed that between November 2002 and May 2003, Ali Salem, Shahin Judeh and several co-conspirators paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash to co-conspirators in Montreal, Canada to acquire over ten million pills of pseudoephedrine, and engaged in significant efforts to smuggle the pills into the United States across the Windsor-Detroit border and then transport them to western locations in the United States for use in the manufacture of methamphetamine. The plans of the conspiracy were revealed and thwarted through the use of undercover ICE agents posing as corrupt truck drivers, and through the cooperative investigative efforts of ICE, the Drug Enforcement Administration and Canadian Law Enforcement Authorities.

Special Agent in Charge Brian Moskowitz said, “The conviction and sentencing of Ali Salem serves a crippling blow to an organization that conspired to smuggle over 10 million tablets of pseudoephedrine into the United States. When manufactured into methamphetamine, this pseudoephedrine represented more than 1,840 kilograms of methamphetamine with an estimated street value in excess of \$36,000,000.00.” “The seizure of 10 million tablets of pseudoephedrine will have a dramatic impact on the availability of methamphetamine on the streets of our cities.”

Co-Defendants Shahin Judeh and Enrique Sanchez (also known as Enrique Barajas) were extradited from abroad for prosecution in this case, and have pleaded guilty to identical charges as Salem. Each is awaiting sentencing. Co-Defendant Alberto Flores, who was previously a fugitive, was apprehended in Kentucky in relation to a separate offense, and is scheduled to appear on these charges later this month. Co-Defendants Mohammad Awad and Nasir Baste were each sentenced to 87 months and 84 months imprisonment, respectively, last year.

The investigation of this case was conducted by agents of the Bureau of Immigration

and Customs Enforcement and the Drug Enforcement Administration, with the assistance of Canadian Law Enforcement Authorities. The case was prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney Joe Allen and Assistant United States Attorney Carl Gilmer-Hill.



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March 3, 2008

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**EVENT: Sentenced**

**Defendant: Adam Troy Woods**

**BAY CITY MAN SENTENCED FOR  
POSSESSION CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

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A Bay City man was sentenced this afternoon to 110 months in federal prison for possession of child pornography in violation of federal law, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Andrew G. Arena, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Adam Troy Woods, 29, of Bay City, Michigan, was sentenced by United States District Judge Thomas L. Ludington.

Woods pleaded guilty in October 2007 to one count of Possession of Child Pornography. At the time of his plea, Woods admitted to the Court that on or about February 2, 2007, he had in his possession a computer hard drive that contained over 600 images of child pornography. The images depicted minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct. The images included depictions of minors under the age of twelve and images of violence and bondage.

United States Attorney Murphy stated that "Today's sentence demonstrates that the possession of child pornography can result in significant criminal penalties. Those involved with child pornography in any way -- including the purchasing and downloading of images -- fuel an industry that abuses and causes irreparable harm to young children. Our critical mission is to do all we can to protect these children and to prevent similar abuse from being visited on other potential victims."

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the Department of Justice launched Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov/](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov/).

U.S. Attorney Murphy thanked the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Secret Service and the El Paso, Texas Police Department for their successful investigation of the case. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nancy Abraham.



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Vera Fedorak - ATF (313) 202-3407

March 3, 2008

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**EVENT: Guilty Plea**

**Defendant: Jamil Ingram**

**DETROIT CRACK DEALER PLEADS GUILTY**

**Career Offender Facing from 10 Years to Life Imprisonment**

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Jamil Ingram, 28, of Detroit pled guilty in federal court today to felony drug charges, 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).

Ingram pled guilty to conspiracy to distribute more than 5 grams of crack cocaine before United States District Judge Gerald E. Rosen. As part of his plea, Ingram admitted that he has sold crack cocaine since he was twelve years old. Ingram was identified as a result of undercover purchases made by disguised ATF agents and Detroit Police Department officers. On March 27, 2007, Ingram sold 11 grams of crack cocaine to an undercover ATF agent for \$350. On April 6, 2007, Ingram sold another 11 grams to the same agent for an additional \$350.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Crack endangers not only those who use it, but all of the families in the surrounding neighborhoods who bear the costs and consequences of its illegal drug trade. We will continue –as evidenced by the result in this

case – to monitor crack production and distribution in our neighborhoods and to work aggressively in prosecuting when warranted.”

This is Ingram’s third drug-related conviction. In June 1999 and again in November 2005, he was convicted in Wayne County Circuit Court of delivering/manufacturing cocaine. As a result, Ingram is classified as a career offender in his plea agreement and faces an advisory sentencing guideline range of 22 to 27 years imprisonment. Distribution of more than 5 grams of crack cocaine is punishable by a statutory minimum of 10 years and up to life imprisonment.

On February 22, 2008, co-defendant Khary Broyles also pled guilty to drug conspiracy charges. Broyles admitted that he allowed Ingram to “cook” crack cocaine at Broyles’ home on Telegraph Rd. in Detroit and to distributing crack on Ingram’s behalf.

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](http://www.psnworks.org).

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



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March 4, 2008

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**EVENT: Sentenced**

**Defendant: Christopher Todd Mite**

**FORMER FUGITIVE COCAINE DISTRIBUTOR  
SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS**

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A former federal fugitive, who fled the state of Michigan, after pleading guilty to distributing cocaine in Ypsilanti, Michigan was sentenced to 360 months (30 years) imprisonment, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

U.S. Attorney Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Robert Corso, Drug Enforcement Administration and Robert Grubbs, United States Marshal, Detroit Division.

Christopher Todd Mite, 37, of Ypsilanti, was sentenced by United States District Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff.

Mite pleaded guilty in August 2007 to one count of Distribution of 500 grams or More of Cocaine. The offense arose from Mite's sale of approximately one kilogram of cocaine to a law enforcement confidential informant in April of 2007.

At the time of his plea, Mite admitted to the Court that he received \$18,000 cash in



exchange for the kilogram of cocaine. He also admitted that the transaction took place at a home which was then owned by him in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

After his guilty plea, the court scheduled his sentencing to occur on December 4, 2007. However, between his guilty plea and sentencing date, Mite fled the jurisdiction, obtained false identification documents and ultimately traveled to California. Thus, Mite failed to appear at the originally-scheduled sentencing hearing.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Fleeing prosecution will only make matters worse. This is an example of how effective our oldest law enforcement agency, the U.S. Marshal's Service, is in apprehending those defendants who try to avoid the consequences of their actions. I salute the U.S. Marshal's Service, who, day in and day out, do an outstanding job that more often than not goes unheralded."

The United States Marshal Service ("USMS") for the Eastern District of Michigan initiated an investigation into Mite's whereabouts. Through the use of one or more confidential informants, as well as telephone records reviews and the assistance of the USMS of Oakland, California, the marshals apprehended Mite on January 3, 2008 at the Oakland Airport. At the time of his arrest, Mite had on his person, a social security card in the name of Joseph Daniel Coward and an Ohio State identification card issued in that same name on December 10, 2007.

Prior to his flight from the jurisdiction, Mite was facing a sentence under the United States Sentencing Guidelines of 262 to 327 months. However, his flight from the jurisdiction coupled with his efforts to evade arrest through the use of false documents, resulted in a rescission of his acceptance of responsibility for his crime. He was also assessed additional responsibility for attempting to obstruct justice. Therefore, his applicable sentencing range increased to 360 months to life imprisonment. He received 360 months of incarceration to be followed by a period of eight (8) years of supervised release.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Stephanie Dawkins

Davis.



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George Krappman - ATF - (313) 202-3504

March 7, 2008

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**EVENT: Sentenced**

**Defendant: Gary J. Theunick**

**FORMER COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY SENTENCED TO  
63 MONTHS FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF  
MACHINE GUNS AND SILENCERS**

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The former Ogemaw County chief assistant prosecuting attorney was sentenced today after having been convicted of unlawful possession machine guns and silencers by a federal court jury in August, 2007, announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy.

Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Thomas E. Brandon, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Gary J. Theunick, 58 was sentenced by United States Judge Robert H. Cleland to 63 months in prison.

Evidence presented during the three week trial showed that the former official abused his official position to obtain 7 machine guns and 9 silencers, which are heavily restricted under federal law, for his own personal use rather than for any law enforcement purpose.

U.S. Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, “When prosecutors and police officers flout the law just to be able to get a hold of particularly dangerous weapons for their personal recreation, this is an abuse of power that violates the public’s trust in the fair application of the law.”

Special Agent in Charge Brandon said, “The jury verdict and subsequent sentence against this defendant shows that no one is above the law”.

Mr. Murphy commended the excellent investigative work of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Michigan State Police, as well as the federal prosecution team from the Bay City and Detroit U.S. Attorney’s Offices, Assistant U.S. Attorneys Janet Parker and Walter Kozar.



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March 7, 2008

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**EVENT: Indictment**

**Defendant: Michael N. Runnestrand**

**FORMER TEACHER'S AID INDICTED  
ON CHILD EXPLOITATION CHARGES**

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Former teacher's aid, Michael N. Runnestrand, 26, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Detroit on charges of Sexual Exploitation of Children, Receipt of Child Pornography, and Transferring Obscene Material to a Minor, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Andrew G. Arena, FBI Special Agent in Charge, and Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard.

The indictment charges that the defendant persuaded, induced, and enticed a 13 year-old girl, over the internet, to engage in sexually explicit conduct and produce videos and still images of that conduct. The victim produced these images and videos in the Eastern District of Michigan, and sent them to Runnestrand in California. Runnestrand then received copies of the images and videos he had instructed the girl to make. Runnestrand also sent the 13 year-old girl images of himself masturbating. This conduct took place between December 2005 and April 2006. Runnestrand met the girl when he was a teacher's assistant in the girl's sixth grade class in Carlsbad, California.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Today's charges, involving the production of child pornography through sexually abusing a minor, are quite serious. The conduct allegedly included both production and receipt of several images of child pornography and involved a breach of the trust parents and students place in their teachers."

If convicted on the production of child pornography charges, Runnestrand faces fifteen to thirty years in custody. Runnestrand also faces between five and twenty years on the receipt of child pornography charge, and up to ten years in custody on the transferring obscene material to a minor charge. Any sentence will be imposed considering the United States Sentencing Guidelines, based on the nature of the charges and the criminal history, if any, of the defendant.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by the FBI and the Oakland County Sheriff's Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys John N. O'Brien II and Kevin M. Mulcahy.



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March 10, 2008

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**EVENT: Sentenced**

**Defendant: Darren Johnson**

**FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL TREASURY EMPLOYEES UNION,  
CHAPTER 78, SENTENCED FOR EMBEZZLING UNION ASSETS**

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A former President of the National Treasury Employees Union, Chapter 78, was sentenced today to six months in a community corrections center, followed by three years of supervised release, restitution of \$13,748.50, and a \$100 special assessment, for charges of embezzlement of union assets, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Ian Burg, Detroit District Director of the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Labor-Management Standards.

Darren Johnson, 42, of Ecorse, was sentenced by United States District Judge George Caram Steeh. Johnson previously pleaded guilty on December 3, 2007, to one count of Bank Robbery and Incidental Crimes.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "An official of a labor union

occupies a position of trust and fidelity with respect to the faithful stewardship of the membership's funds. Embezzlement by such an official will be met with vigorous prosecution by our office.”

At the time of his plea, Johnson admitted to the Court that between September 3, 2002 and March 16, 2004, he embezzled at least \$4,756.75 from Chapter 78 by making unauthorized ATM cash withdrawals from the Chapter's checking account, and by cashing unauthorized union checks made payable to himself.

The case was investigated by Investigator Randal Cummings of the Office of Labor-Management Standards. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney James M. Wouczyna.





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Stephen Moore IRS CI 313-234-2410

March 11, 2008

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**EVENT: Sentenced**

**Defendant: Kenneth Felder Jr.**

**DETROIT MAN GOES TO JAIL FOR DEFRAUDING  
THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE**

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Kenneth Felder Jr., 36, of Detroit, Michigan, was sentenced to 21 months imprisonment, followed by three years of supervised release, announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy. United States District Court Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff also order restitution to a financial institution based on the losses from Refund Anticipation Loans (RAL) received through the use of fraudulent tax returns. This amount will be determined at a later date. This sentence was imposed as the result of Felder Jr.'s December 2007 guilty plea to conspiracy to defraud the Internal Revenue Service.

Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Maurice Aouate, Special Agent in Charge of the Detroit Field Office of the Internal Revenue Service's Criminal Investigation Division.

According to court documents, during March 5 through April 14, 2003, Felder Jr. recruited individuals to file at least nine fraudulent federal income tax returns and provided them with false Form W-2s. Felder Jr. recruited taxpayers who did not have employment and who had not filed tax returns. Working with another individual, Felder Jr. provided him with

the names, social security numbers and addresses of different taxpayers and was provided the false Form W-2s. These false Form W-2s contained the names of employers who did not employ these individuals, along with fabricated amounts of income and tax withholdings. Felder Jr. then drove or directed these individuals, equipped with the fabricated Forms W-2, to a commercial tax return preparer, who unknowingly prepared the false 2002 federal income tax returns on their behalf. These taxpayers also applied for a RAL and in some cases, received the advance loan money on their anticipated refunds. These returns falsely claimed tax refunds from the IRS of over \$41,000, but there was no actual tax loss since the IRS identified the scheme quickly and stopped the refunds payments.

United States Attorney Murphy said, "Our office will continue to prosecute and enforce the tax laws. We will take all appropriate action against those who prepare fraudulent tax returns, however, taxpayers are ultimately responsible for their tax returns, regardless of who prepares them. If the return is prepared fraudulently, the taxpayer is liable and can be held responsible for the resulting penalties and interests."

No one is entitled to an undeserved windfall and refunds should only be issued to taxpayers who are entitled to them," said Aouate. "Willfully filing a false tax return is the same as stealing. At the IRS, protecting taxpayer money is a matter we take extremely seriously."

The case was investigated by special agents of the IRS Criminal Investigation Division and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Sheldon N. Light.



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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March 12, 2008

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**EVENT: Indictment**

**Defendant: David Tomlan et al**

**FOUR POLICE OFFICERS INDICTED IN CONNECTION WITH HIGHWAYMEN  
MOTORCYCLE CLUB INVESTIGATION**

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United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today that four police officers and a Highwaymen Motorcycle Club (HMG) member were indicted by a federal grand jury in Detroit on charges ranging from lying to federal agents, lying to a grand jury, and committing various drug offenses. In addition, a formal criminal complaint was filed against Detroit area attorney Lee O'Brien for lying to federal agents. All charges arose from an FBI investigation that resulted in the indictment of over forty HMG members and associates last year.

Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Andrew G. Arena, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

David Tomlan, a Garden City police officer, was brought to the attention of the FBI by the Garden City Police Department after they discovered he had become an HMG member. (Tomlan's employment with the police department has since been terminated). Tomlan was interviewed by the FBI on several occasions, and was subsequently charged with lying to federal agents about his contact and conversations with HMG member Robert Flowers, following a shooting incident at Flowers' home. In addition, Tomlan has been charged with possession with intent to distribute cocaine and steroids, substances found during the execution of a search warrant at his home.

HMG member Sean Donovan (currently incarcerated by the state on stolen property charges) was charged with possession with intent to distribute marijuana and Vicoden.

Charges were also filed today against Donovan's former criminal defense attorney, Lee O'Brien, who was charged in a criminal complaint with lying to federal agents regarding his possession, and subsequent sale of a stolen Camaro that he received from Donovan.

Brownstown Police Officer Michael Ramsey and former Detroit Police Reserve Officer Dennis Abraham have both been charged with lying to federal agents and to a grand jury. The charges arose when a patrol officer saw an informant in the HMG investigation meeting with an FBI agent and a detective from Brownstown. This was reported to Michael Ramsey, who discussed it with other officers. Dennis Abraham became aware of these discussions and later warned an HMG member that another member was an informant for the FBI. Both Ramsey and Abraham denied all of this when questioned by federal agents and an investigating grand jury.

Finally, Randell Hutchinson, a Hamtramck police officer assigned to a DEA task force, was indicted for participating in a conspiracy to distribute steroids. As part of his role in the conspiracy, Hutchinson advised HMG member Philip McDonald how to tell if law enforcement officers were focusing on him, tried to get state criminal drug charges against McDonald dropped by claiming him as his own informant, and ultimately disclosed to McDonald the existence of an FBI wiretap on an HMG member.

According to Stephen J. Murphy, "As troubling as any criminal charges are, these indictments are an egregious example of police corruption. It is conduct that undermines the public's faith in the integrity of the criminal justice system and besmirches the profession of thousands of police officers and agents who perform their duties with the utmost integrity, bravery, and sense of ethics."

The charges carrying sentences ranging from five to twenty years and the fines are 250,000 to 1,000,000.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by special agents of the FBI and by officers from the Brownstown Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney

Diane L. Marion.



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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March 17, 2008

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**EVENT: Indictment**

**Defendant: Joseph Eberle et al**

**TWO WASHTENAW COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES AND  
A SERGEANT CHARGED WITH CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

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Two Washtenaw County Sheriff's deputies and a sergeant were indicted, in two separate indictments, by a federal grand jury in Detroit for violating the civil rights of two Ypsilanti Township men, announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy.

Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Andrew G. Arena, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The indictments, which were returned on March 12, 2007 and unsealed today, charge Joseph Eberle, age 35, Eric Kelly, age 37, and Shawn Hoy, age 37.

The charges are based on the alleged use of unreasonable force by the officers on June 1, 2006, in Ypsilanti Township after a traffic stop at about 1:30 a.m. The two victims, who were brothers, lived in the neighborhood. Deputy Eberle is charged with intentionally using unreasonable force on Clifton Lee Jr., who died as a result. Deputy Kelly and Sergeant Hoy are charged with intentionally using unreasonable force on Bruce Lee, who was injured. It is also alleged in the indictment that Sgt. Hoy intentionally failed to stop and prevent the use of

unreasonable force by Deputy Kelly.

United States Attorney Murphy said, “The police power is designed to protect the people. Today’s charges arise from a police-citizen encounter in which it is alleged that this power was abused, with tragic consequences. Such alleged abuses run contrary to our civil rights laws, and where the evidence is sufficient, they will be vigorously prosecuted.”

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Mr. Murphy commended the Federal Bureau of Investigation for their investigation, and the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Department and the Michigan State Police for their cooperation and assistance which led to this indictment.



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March 20, 2008

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**EVENT: Sentenced**

**Defendant: Joseph Patrick Nolan**

**FORMER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EMPLOYEE  
OF PENTASTAR AVIATION SENTENCED FOR COMPUTER INTRUSION AND  
DESTROYING PAYROLL AND PERSONNEL RECORDS**

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A former information technology employee of Pentastar Aviation, LLC, was sentenced to four years probation with the first six months to be served at a halfway house and six months to be served as house arrest after his conviction for unlawful computer intrusion into the company's computer system in 2007 and causing damage to the system by destroying payroll and personnel records, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Andrew G. Arena, FBI Special Agent in Charge.

Joseph Patrick Nolan, 27, of Ann Arbor, Michigan was sentenced in U.S. District Court by Judge David Lawson. The court also ordered that Nolan pay restitution in the amount of \$1,158.25 to Pentastar Aviation.

The evidence at trial showed, on February 1, 2007, Nolan, was a former employee of Pentastar Aviation, LLC, a Waterford, Michigan aviation leasing and maintenance company. On that date, and acting without authorization, Nolan gained unauthorized access to



Pentastar's computer system and destroyed payroll and personnel records. Repairing the damage caused from this intrusion, cost Pentastar in excess of \$50,000.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Computer security is a fundamental component of our nation's security. Those who may have the technical ability to breach the walls protecting our computer networks should realize that doing so is a serious federal offense that will be prosecuted. I commend the FBI, and the staff at Pentastar, for their investigative work."

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Christopher Varner.



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March 20, 2008

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**EVENT: Indictment**

**Defendant: Robert C. Daniels et al**

**FIVE CHARGED WITH INTERSTATE SEX TRAFFICKING OF MINORS**

*Defendants Alleged To Have Used craigslist, Other Websites To Advertise Child Prostitutes*

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Five defendants were charged in federal district court today with sex trafficking of minors, manufacturing child pornography, and other offenses arising from interstate prostitution networks based in Detroit, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Andrew G. Arena, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in Detroit.

Robert C. Daniels, a/k/a "Motor City Mink," 28, of Detroit, and Dennis Paige, a/k/a "Detroit Slim", of Novi, are alleged to be the leaders of separate but related interstate prostitution networks. Stephanie Head, 22, of Detroit, is described as Daniels' "bottom," the highest ranking prostitute working for Daniels and is accused of soliciting and training minors to engage in prostitution, as well as photographing them engaged in sexually explicit conduct and posting digital solicitations on the internet. Sarah Dutton and Hortense Canty, of Novi, are alleged to have served similar roles for Paige.

United States Attorney Murphy said, "The United States Attorney's Office is committed to making defendants answer for crimes that exploit and abuse young women. The offenses

charged in today's complaints are not victimless crimes and we will work tirelessly to ensure that those who use the Internet to facilitate the sexual exploitation of children will be brought to justice."

Special Agent in Charge Arena said, "The FBI and our law enforcement partners remain dedicated, and will not tire in our efforts to protect children from exploitation by these criminal groups."

The defendants are alleged to have posted over 2,800 advertisements on craigslist.org beginning on January 10, 2006. Solicitations for prostitution were posted for Houston, Texas, Chicago, Illinois, Detroit, Michigan, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Cleveland, Ohio, Washington, D.C., College Park, Maryland and New York City, New York. Other websites alleged to have been used to advertise and solicit child and adult prostitutes include myspace.com, cityvibe.com, blackplanet.com, and eros.com.

According to a criminal complaint filed in federal court, the FBI's continuing investigation had identified nine minors and over 80 adults who have been advertised as prostitutes on the internet by Head and Daniels. In addition to working out-of-state, the pair is alleged to have rented rooms at a Red Roof Inn and a Motel Six in Southfield for prostitution.

Head and Daniels are charged with conspiracy, sex trafficking of children, interstate transportation in aid of racketeering, sexual exploitation of children, and transportation for purposes of prostitution. Paige, Dutton, and Canty are charged with sex trafficking of children, transporting a minor for purposes of prostitution, and transportation for purposes of prostitution. The most serious charges carry a mandatory minimum of 15 years in custody and up to life imprisonment.

All five defendants made initial appearances in federal district court today and were temporarily detained. Detention hearings are scheduled for Friday, March 20.

A criminal complaint is a charging document and not evidence of guilt. Each and every defendant is presumed to be innocent.

Mr. Murphy commended the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Michigan State Police and the Detroit Police Department for their work on this investigation.

The cases are being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys John N. O'Brien II, Leonid Feller, and Eaton Curtis.



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**For Immediate Release:**

**Contact:** Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758

March 21, 2008

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**EVENT: Indictment**

**Defendant: Zachary Stevens et al**

**FIVE INDIVIDUALS CHARGED WITH STEALING GUNS  
FROM GUN DEALER**

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Five individuals have been indicted by a federal grand jury in Bay City, Michigan on conspiracy and other various firearms charges, announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy.

Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Thomas E. Brandon, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Charged in the indictment were Midland residents Zachary Stevens, 23, Matthew Stevens, 22, Nathan Chambers, 20, Michael Louchart, 33 of Chesaning and Wayne Parcham, 20 of Saginaw.

The charges are based on the theft of approximately 200 firearms from Joe Gun, Inc located at 152 Saginaw Street, Lincoln Township, Michigan. The indictment alleges that sometime between February 5, 2008 and February 6, 2008, the defendants conspired to steal firearms and ammunition from Joe Gun with the intent that the guns would then be sold.

“Through the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative, the United States Attorney’s Office and ATF are committed to stem the trade in illegal firearms. While citizens have the right to obtain firearms legally, this is a case where over 150 guns were taken off the street that could have been used by criminals to commit violence in our community.”

Special Agent in Charge Brandon said, “Criminals should know that when they break into and steal firearms from a Federal firearms licensee, ATF will swiftly and aggressively respond with local law enforcement to catch them. We realize that every stolen firearm that ends up in the hands of a criminal is only a trigger pull away from ending the life of an innocent member of the community or one of our dedicated law enforcement professionals with whom we are sworn to protect. By working in partnership with the Midland County and Saginaw County Sheriff Offices, 150 of the approximately 200 stolen firearms were recovered. This is a victory for all of us.”

To date 150 firearms and 10 black powder weapons have been recovered in Midland and Saginaw Counties.

All five defendants have appeared in federal court in Bay City for their arraignment and were temporarily detained at the request of the government pending hearings before Magistrate Judge Charles Binder. Detention hearings are currently set for Monday, March 24 at 2:30 p.m. and Tuesday, March 25 at 1:30 p.m.

If convicted on the charge of conspiracy the defendants face a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine and a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison on the charges of theft of firearms from a licensed dealer and receiving and selling stolen firearms.

United States Attorney Murphy congratulated the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Midland and Saginaw County Sheriff’s Department for the significant cooperation leading to the arrests, and he noted that the case is being ably prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nancy Abraham.





**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**For Immediate Release:**

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March 24, 2008

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**EVENT: Guilty Verdict**

**Defendant: Christopher Aaron**

**ORTONVILLE MAN CONVICTED OF SIGNING FALSE INTERNAL  
REVENUE SERVICE FORMS ON CASINO WINNINGS**

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Christopher Aaron, age 48, of Ortonville, Michigan, was found guilty today by a federal jury in Detroit, Michigan on seventeen counts of an Indictment charging him making and subscribing false IRS forms under penalty of perjury, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today. He was acquitted on one count of obstructing and impeding the administration of the internal revenue laws.

The jury deliberated for less than two hours before returning the verdict, concluding a trial that began on March 13, 2008, with jury selection before United States District Judge Nancy Edmunds.

The evidence at trial showed that the defendant signed over 900 IRS forms, under penalty of perjury, in which he provided false Social Security numbers to the IRS in connection with his gambling winnings. The defendant's total gross winnings on the forms bearing false Social Security Numbers exceeded \$3 million over the years 2000-2003. The defendant then filed federal income tax returns, indicating far less gross gambling income that he actually received. Due to offsetting gambling losses, it could not be determined with certainty whether



he actually avoided paying taxes that were due and owing

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, “Gambling winnings must be honestly reported under our voluntary tax system. Using false Social Security numbers violates this law and will result in vigorous prosecution.”

Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigative Division Maurice Aouate said, “After winning the big jackpot at any casino, IRS forms require honest information and must be properly filled out by the winner. In Aaron’s case, he provided false social security numbers to the casinos, intentionally violating the law.”

The defendant faces a maximum term of imprisonment of three years on each of the seventeen counts of conviction. The actual sentence imposed if convicted would depend on a number of factors, including the defendant’s criminal record (if any), and advisory Sentencing Guidelines.

The case was investigated by special agents of the IRS. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Wayne F. Pratt.



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**For Immediate Release:**

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March 25, 2008

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**EVENT: Sentenced**

**Defendant: Henry Allen Richardson**

### **ARMED CRACK DEALER SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS IN PRISON**

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Henry Allen Richardson, 40, of Canton, was sentenced today to a mandatory minimum of 25 years in prison on felony drug trafficking and firearms charges, 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).

Richardson was sentenced by United States District Judge Paul D. Borman after pleading guilty in November 2007 to possession with intent to distribute more than 50 grams of cocaine base (crack cocaine), possession with intent to distribute more than 500 grams of powder cocaine, and possession of four loaded firearms in furtherance of these drug trafficking crimes.

The charges arose following an investigation and execution of a search warrant at a house on Pinehurst street in Detroit by ATF agents on December 6, 2006. During the execution of the search warrant, agents recovered approximately 282 grams of crack cocaine and approximately 682 grams of powder cocaine, along with four loaded firearms and various narcotics packaging and paraphernalia.

Prior to this arrest and conviction, Richardson had been convicted of three felony drug offenses, as well as assault with intent to do great bodily harm, armed robbery, and receiving and concealing stolen property.

United States Attorney Murphy said, “Today’s 25-year sentence of this lifelong criminal shows the high price that will be paid by those who continue to traffic in narcotics after multiple convictions – particularly where they possess dangerous firearms in furtherance of their illegal drug sales.”

Citizens with information concerning illegal guns, gangs with guns, armed drug trafficking or the trafficking of illegal guns are encouraged to call 1-800-ATF-GUNS. Callers can remain anonymous.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Erin Shaw and Graham Teall.



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**For Immediate Release:**

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March 25, 2008

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**EVENT: Indictment**

**Defendant: Sarath Dhanayakage**

### **Battle Creek Resident Charged with Immigration Fraud**

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Sarath Dhanayakage, 40, an illegal alien from Sri Lanka residing in Battle Creek, Michigan, was indicted today by a federal grand jury in Detroit, Michigan on charges of procuring his admission into the United States by fraud, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced.

According to the charges in the indictment, that Dhanayakage paid an individual \$19,500 for a fraudulent Singapore passport that enabled him to illegally enter the United States on July 5, 2007, without a visa under the Visa Waiver program. Federal agents with the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrested Dhanayakage on July 7, 2007, after Canadian immigration officials denied Dhanayakage entry into Canada at the Detroit-Canada tunnel and returned him to the United States. ICE has initiated removal proceedings in United States Immigration Court to deport Dhanayakage to Sri Lanka. Dhanayakage faces a sentence of 10 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine if convicted of visa fraud.

In announcing the indictment, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy commended the work of the Special Agents of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, who

conducted the investigation. "Fraud in connection with immigration benefits circumvents our Nation's ability to control its borders and safely manage the admissions process. My office in coordination with ICE will continue to vigorously and systematically pursue such fraud to detect and take action against those who have obtained immigration benefits unlawfully," said United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy.

Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Brian M. Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by special agents of ICE and by officers of the United States Customs and Border Protection. The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney Mark Jebson.



U.S. Department of Justice

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Vera Fedorak - ATF (313) 202-3407

March 26, 2008

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**EVENT: Guilty Plea**

**Defendant: Isaias Quesada et al**

**LEADER OF “DETROIT THUG LORDZ” AND CONFEDERATE PLEAD GUILTY**

*Drug Dealer And Co-Defendant To Be Sentenced From 15 Years To Life*

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Isaias Quesada, 23, of Detroit pled guilty in federal court to felony drug charges, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today. Joining in the announcement was Special Agent-In-Charge Thomas E. Brandon, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)

Quesada pled guilty to conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine, powder cocaine, and marijuana before United States District Judge David Lawson. Under the terms of his plea agreement, Quesada faces a minimum sentence of 15 years imprisonment and an advisory sentencing range of 25-30 years.

Also pleading guilty to drug and gun charges was Omar Gladson, 20, of Detroit, a member of the Detroit Thug Lordz who admitted to working for Quesada. As a career offender under federal sentencing guidelines, Gladson faces a mandatory minimum of 15 years imprisonment and a sentencing range of 27 to 32 years.

The Detroit Thug Lordz were an armed drug trafficking gang in northwest Detroit. The gang's 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.

"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 plea is an example of the results that can be achieved from such teamwork."

"Today's guilty plea and the fifteen or more years in Federal prison to be served by these gang members reiterate 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 SAC Brandon.

With today's guilty pleas, all nine defendants indicted by the government on April 24, 2007 in the Detroit Thug Lordz prosecution have been convicted. Six DTL members and affiliates pled guilty to drug charges on September 19, 2007. These included Rodolfo Moreno,

20, of Detroit; Nicholas Jaime, a/k/a Kilo, 21, of Detroit; Hassan Aljibory, 23, of Warren; Randi Carl Diggs, 19, of Detroit; Michael Moreno, 18, of Detroit; and Shane Aben, 18, of Detroit. A seventh defendant, Karen Haskins, 49, of Detroit, pled guilty on November 15, 2007.

Four defendants have been sentenced in the case. On February 4, 2008, Rodolfo Moreno was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment. Aljibory and Michael Moreno were each sentenced to 2 ½ years imprisonment on February 1 and February 14, respectively. Aben, who purchased marijuana from DTL members, was sentenced to three months in a halfway house and three years probation on January 14.

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](http://www.psnworks.org).

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





**U.S. Department of Justice**

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March 27, 2008

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**EVENT: Sentenced**

**Defendant: Hamid Taaid, M.D.**

**MIDLAND DOCTOR SENTENCED TO 20 MONTHS IN PRISON  
FOR HEALTH CARE FRAUD**

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A 47-year-old Midland man was sentenced on March 25, 2008 to 20 months in federal prison for defrauding Medicare and Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan of over \$70,000, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan.

Hamid Taaid, M.D., was sentenced in U.S. District Court by Judge Thomas L. Ludington on Tuesday, March 25, 2008. In addition to the prison sentence, Judge Ludington ordered Taaid to pay restitution of \$68,204.06 to Medicare and \$4,978.81 to Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan.

“Fraudulent billing practices and the manipulation of patient and medical billing records in order to cheat the system are serious violations of both the private and public trust. Our office will continue to aggressively investigate and prosecute those who, like Taaid, have

violated that trust and have attempted to enrich themselves through fraudulent practices.”  
United States Attorney Murphy said.

Hamid Taaid had entered a plea of guilty to the offense of health care fraud before Judge Ludington in September of 2007. According to the government's evidence, Taaid had engaged in multiple instances of healthcare, wire, and mail fraud, and several instances of bankruptcy fraud over a span of several years in approximately 2002 through 2005.

After serving his federal imprisonment term of 20 months, Taaid will be on supervised release for an additional 2 years.

U.S. Attorney Murphy thanked the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services - OIG, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Blue Cross Blue Shield Michigan Corporate & Financial Investigation for their assistance in the successful investigation of the case. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney James A. Brunson.



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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March 27, 2008

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**EVENT: Guilty Verdict**

**Defendant: Joshua Bonderenka**

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**YPSILANTI FELON CONVICTED OF POSSESSING STOLEN FIREARMS**

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Joshua Bonderenka, age 31, of Ypsilanti, Michigan, was found guilty on Wednesday, March 26, 2008 by a federal jury in Detroit, Michigan on four counts of an Indictment charging him with being a felon in possession of firearms and possession of stolen firearms, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

The jury deliberated for a little more than two hours before returning the verdict, concluding a trial that began on March 24, 2008, before United States District Judge Victoria Roberts.

The evidence at trial showed that Bonderenka and co-defendant Adam Burke broke into the home of Burke's uncle in Belleville, Michigan, stole over thirty firearms, and sold some of them to another person in exchange for cash and marijuana. Bonderenka and Burke were arrested after they sold four more guns to an undercover police officer while under surveillance by officers of the Grosse Ile Police Department and Trenton Police Department, and special agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Burke previously pled guilty to one count of felon in possession of a firearm.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "With gun violence at unacceptably high levels, black market sales of stolen guns are clearly a business that we need to stamp out. Today's conviction takes a street arms dealer out of commission."

SAC Brandon said, "Firearms trafficking is an ATF investigative priority. We remain committed to identifying and recommending for Federal prosecution the sources of illegal firearms that we know wind up being used on a consistent basis to commit violent crime. This investigation, and resulting conviction, is a direct result of an excellent partnership between ATF, the Grosse Ile Police Department, the Trenton Police Department and the United States Attorney's Office."

The defendant faces a maximum term of imprisonment of ten years on each of the four counts of conviction. The actual sentence imposed will depend on a number of factors, including the defendant's criminal record, and advisory Sentencing Guidelines. Sentencing is scheduled for August 4, 2008.

The case was investigated by special agents of the ATF and officers of the Grosse Ile Police Department and Trenton Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Chasteen.



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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March 27, 2008

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**EVENT: Sentenced**

**Defendant: Kenneth Stefanski**

**PRIOR CONVICTED SEX-OFFENDER SENTENCED  
TO 35 YEARS FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY MANUFACTURE**

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Kenneth Stefanski, 36 of Garden City, Michigan was sentenced today in Federal District Court to manufacture of child pornography, in violation of 18 United States Code Section 2251, announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy.

Stefanski was sentenced before the Honorable Lawrence P. Zatkoff to 35 years in prison to be followed by eight (8) years of supervised release.

In June of 2007, Stefanski entered onto the premises of a church located in Redford, Michigan while a church picnic was underway. While there, Stefanski approached two young girls chasing fireflies, ages 7 and 8, in driveway area, separated from the adults and other children,. Stefanski removed the 7 year old's shorts and underwear and took pictures with a digital camera he had brought with him.

The offense was committed as police from Garden City were preparing to execute a search warrant on his apartment in connection with a sexual assault Stefanski had perpetrated on a 4 year old girl one week earlier in their city. In February of this year,

Stefanski was sentenced to 5 to 15 years in Wayne County Circuit Court for the Garden City Offense.

Stefanski had been convicted of 2nd Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct in 2000 for the sexual assault of a minor. He was also convicted in 2002 of Accosting a Minor for Immoral Purposes.

United States Attorney Stephen Murphy said, "Mr. Stefanski's predatory sexual exploitation of a child and production of child pornography of those acts demonstrate the continuing danger he represents. As a previously convicted sex offender, Stefanski was well aware that this type of conduct will meet with the most serious response from law enforcement. Nevertheless, he committed an offense against a child within a few weeks of completing his term of parole. The United States Attorney's Office is convinced that Judge Zatkoff's 35 year sentence will protect the most innocent of victims, children, from Mr. Stefanski for as long as possible."

"This federal prosecution of Stefanski resulted from a continuing partnership with the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office through Project Safe Childhood. This cooperative effort resulted in our prosecution of the federal charges related to the Defendant's production of child pornography. The ability to take advantage of the serious federal sentences available for this type of child exploitation crime and Wayne County's strong response to the child sexual assault offense in Garden City should serve as a strong message to deter others who contemplate the sexual exploitation of children" Murphy added.

Murphy praised the outstanding work of the Redford and Garden City Police Departments as well as Prosecutor Kym Worthy and the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office. "Their quick response and investigation, as well as the dedication of time and skill necessary apprehend this predator has well served the justice system and the Stefanski's victims.

Assistant United States Attorneys Kevin Mulcahy and John O'Brien prosecuted the case for the United States and Assistant Prosecutor Daniel Less, for Wayne County.





**U.S. Department of Justice**

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March 27, 2008

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**EVENT: Sentenced**

**Defendant: Mohammad Mansour**

**Illegal Alien From Lebanon Found Guilty in Marriage Attempt To Procure Permanent Residency**

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Mohammad Mansour, 45, an illegal alien from Lebanon residing in Dearborn, Michigan, pleaded guilty, and was sentenced, today before United States District Judge Avern Cohn to visa fraud, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today. Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Brian Moskowitz, Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Detroit.

The evidence presented to the court at the time of the guilty plea established that Mansour paid a United States citizen to fraudulently marry him in 1994 in an attempt to illegally procure his permanent residency status in the United States. Although this United States citizen "spouse" filed a visa petition on Mansour's behalf, the former Immigration and Naturalization Service denied the petition because the couple divorced. Mansour subsequently married two other United States citizen spouses who also filed visa petitions on his behalf. Mansour lied about his earlier marriage fraud on his application to obtain legal permanent resident status based on his third United States citizen wife. The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services denied this application and a United States Immigration Judge ordered Mansour deported to Lebanon on February 21, 2008. Because Mansour has



already been ordered deported to Lebanon, Judge Cohn waived the pre-sentence report and sentenced Mansour to time served. Mansour was immediately taken into immigration custody and will be deported to Lebanon.

In announcing the guilty plea and sentence, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy commended the work of the Special Agents of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, who conducted the investigation. "My office in coordination with ICE will continue to vigorously and systematically pursue those who have obtained immigration benefits unlawfully," said United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy.

"Becoming a citizen of this great country is a privilege," said Brian M. Moskowitz, special agent in charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in Detroit. "ICE will not tolerate anyone who obtains that benefit through lies, fraud or deceit. This guilty plea should send a clear message that ICE and its partners will vigilantly guard the citizenship process."

The case was investigated by special agents of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The case was prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney Mark Jebson.