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Detroit, Michigan

JACKSON MICHIGAN MAN SENTENCED ON DRUG CONSPIRACY CHARGES

Ahmad Khilia Daniels, of Jackson, Michigan, was sentenced to 262 months in federal prison, announced Acting United States Attorney Terrence Berg. In May 2008, Daniels was found guilty by a federal jury in Ann Arbor, Michigan on four counts of an Indictment charging him with crack cocaine and heroin conspiracy, as well as federal firearms violations.

Mr. Berg was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Thomas E. Brandon, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and Chief Matthew Heins, Jackson Police Department.

The evidence at trial showed that from late 2004 through March, 2006, DANIELS, along with co-defendants Labaron Wardlaw, Anthony Travis, Rodney Hollis, Nequita Jackson and others, conspired to possess and distribute over 50 grams of crack cocaine and a quantity of heroin, in the city of Jackson, Michigan. DANIELS and his co-defendants transported half a kilogram of crack cocaine and an ounce of heroin from Detroit to Jackson almost every week. Several homes in the Jackson area were used to sell and house the drugs. During the course of the investigation DANIELS sold crack cocaine to an undercover ATF agent as part of a covert operation.

Testimony at the trial also established that ATF agents and officers of the Jackson Police Department executed a search warrant at DANIELS home located at 618 Center Street, Jackson, Michigan. A large quantity of crack cocaine, heroin, narcotics packaging materials, drug paraphernalia, three firearms and ammunition were recovered during the search. One of the firearms had an obliterated serial number, which is a federal offense.

Acting United States Attorney Berg said, “The Detroit-to-Jackson crack supply line operated by this cocaine trafficking ring has now been severed. I commend the ATF and the City of Jackson Police Department for their excellent investigative work which lead to this conviction.”

Special Agent in Charge Brandon said, “Illegal drugs and guns go hand in hand and are a threat to the safety of our citizens and law enforcement officers. This conviction shows that ATF is dedicated to working with our state and local law enforcement partners to reduce violent crime by targeting those individuals who use guns to protect their drugs and drug proceeds. I commend the excellent investigative work done by the ATF undercover agent and our partnering officers from the Jackson Police Department.”

Jackson Police Chief Heins said, “This is another fine example of working collaboratively in a time of shrinking budgets and staffing. It is important to target hardened criminals in our community and remove them from our streets, making Jackson and other communities safe for their residents.”

Co-defendants Wardlaw , Travis, Hollis and Jackson all pleaded guilty and were sentenced to 180 months, 30 months, 72 months and 40 months respectively.

The case was investigated by special agents of the ATF and task force agents of the Jackson Police Department, the Jackson County Sheriff’s Department and the Jackson Narcotics Enforcement Team (JAYNET). The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys David Portelli and Susan Gillooly.