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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Detroit, Michigan

**TWO "DETROIT THUG LORDZ" SENTENCED
TO 20 YEARS' AND 18' YEARS IMPRISONMENT**

Isaias Quesada, 24, of Detroit was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment on felony drug charges, Acting United States Attorney Terrence Berg 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 on March 26, 2008. Quesada's sentence was enhanced for being the leader of a drug trafficking organization, for using minors to distribute controlled substances, and for possession of a firearm.

Also sentenced today was Omar Gladson, 21, of Detroit to 18 years imprisonment. On November 2, 2006, Gladson was found hiding in a bedroom closet as federal agents executed a search warrant at a Detroit Thug Lordz stash house on Woodmont. Gladson had been packaging over 5 grams of powder cocaine and nearly half a kilogram of marijuana and had stuffed a Ruger .45 caliber pistol under a mattress. Gladson admitted to dealing drugs from the Woodmont house and others, to taking drug orders by telephone, and to being paid a flat rate of \$5,000 per month to deal drugs for the Detroit Thug Lordz organization. Gladson pled guilty to conspiracy and firearm charges before Judge Lawson on March 26

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 Acting U.S. Attorney Berg. "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 sentences are an example of the results that can be achieved from such teamwork."

"The sentence to be served by this gang leader reiterates 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.

All nine defendants indicted by the government on April 24, 2007 in the Detroit Thug Lordz prosecution have now been convicted and sentenced. 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.

On May 28, Jaime, was sentenced to 5 ½ years imprisonment. On May 21, Haskins was sentenced to three years imprisonment. On May 19, Diggs was sentenced to 3 years probation. On February 14, Aljibory was sentenced to 2 ½ years imprisonment. On February 4, Rodolfo Moreno was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment. On February 1, Michael Moreno was sentenced to 2 ½ years imprisonment. On January 14, Aben 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.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Leonid Feller.