



PRESS RELEASE
*Office of the United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida*

PAUL I. PEREZ
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

400 North Tampa Street
Suite 3200
Tampa, Florida 33602
813/274-6000
813/274-6300 (Fax)

300 North Hogan Street, Suite 700
Post Office Box 600
Jacksonville, Florida 32201
904/301-6300
904/301-6310 (Fax)

80 North Hughey Avenue,
Room 201
Orlando, Florida 32801
407/648-7500
407/648-7643 (Fax)

2110 First Street,
Suite 3-137
Fort Myers, Florida 33901
239/461-2200
239/461-2219 (fax)

Contact: Steve Cole ♦ Public Affairs Specialist ♦ 813/274-6352

For Immediate Release

September 15, 2003

TRIAL OF FOUR MEN RESULTS IN GUILTY VERDICTS ON ALL COUNTS

Fort Myers -- Paul I. Perez, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, announced today that Kerome Lendon Paisley, age 26, Gary Livingston Allen, age 35, Jason Jones, age 22, and Damian Fitzgerald Miller, age 22, all of Broward County, were convicted on all counts of an indictment after a five-day jury trial in United States District Court before the Honorable John E. Steele. All of the men were convicted of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute 5 kilograms of cocaine, and carrying a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime. Paisley, Allen and Miller were also convicted of possession of a firearm and ammunition by a convicted felon, and Allen, Jones, and Miller were also convicted of possession of a firearm and ammunition by an illegal alien. Allen, Jones and Miller are Jamaican citizens illegally in the United States.

The defendants had conspired to rob what they believed was a drug stash house allegedly guarded by members of an armed Colombian narcotics trafficking organization operating in the Naples, Florida, area. The defendants were under the belief that an ATF undercover agent worked for the Colombian drug dealers and that he knew where they

were storing 20 to 30 kilograms of cocaine at the stash house. The defendants planned to split the cocaine evenly among themselves after the robbery.

On May 30, 2003, the defendants were arrested by ATF agents after meeting with the undercover agent while armed with a total of six semi-automatic firearms and over 100 rounds of ammunition. In addition to the firearms and ammunition, ATF agents seized flex cuffs, two-way radios, and duct tape that the defendants planned to use during the robbery of the cocaine at the stash house.

On the conspiracy charge, the defendants face a mandatory minimum sentence of imprisonment of 10 years up to life, without parole, and a fine of up to \$4 million. On the charge of carrying a firearm during the commission of a drug trafficking crime, the defendants face a mandatory minimum sentence of imprisonment of 5 years up to life, without parole, consecutive to the sentence on the conspiracy charge, and a fine of up to \$250,000. On the possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and possession of a firearm by an illegal alien charges, the defendants face a maximum sentence of imprisonment of ten years without parole, and a fine of up to \$250,000. Sentencing has been scheduled for January 26, 2004.

This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). United States Attorney Paul I. Perez is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials and calling our effort "Project Safe Neighborhoods - Operation HALT the Violence!" The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey F. Michelland of the Fort Myers Division of the United States Attorney's Office.

/ / / / /