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**DRUG ORGANIZATION INDICTED IN OCDETF INVESTIGATION FOR
MURDER IN AID OF RACKETEERING AND RACKETEERING CONSPIRACY**

Baltimore, Maryland- Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that yesterday a federal grand jury indicted the following 4 defendants for racketeering conspiracy under the RICO statute, murder in aid of racketeering, narcotics trafficking and armed robbery:

Willie Edward Mitchell, a/k/a Bo, age 25, of Randallstown, Maryland;
Shelton Lee Harris, age 21, of Baltimore, Maryland;
Shelly Wayne Martin, age 26, of Randallstown, Maryland; and
Shawn Earl Gardner, age 26, of Baltimore, Maryland.

The indictment alleges that a pattern of violent crimes were committed from 1996 to the present in furtherance of the racketeering enterprise. Among these violent crimes were 5 homicides committed by the defendants who were all members of what the indictment calls the Mitchell organization. Mitchell and Harris are charged with the double homicide of Oliver McCaffity and Lisa Brown on the night of February 27-28, 2002 in the Finney Avenue area of Baltimore City. All of the defendants are charged with the double homicide and armed robbery of Darryl Wyche and Anthony Wyche on the night

of March 24-25, 2002, in the Wabash Avenue area of Baltimore City. In both of these double murders, the victims were shot to death while they sat in the front seat of automobiles. Shawn Gardner is charged with the murder and armed robbery of Tonya Jones-Spence on June 7, 2002 in Randallstown.

The indictment charges that these crimes, as well as armed robberies and narcotics trafficking offenses involving cocaine base, cocaine, marihuana and heroin, were carried out in furtherance of the racketeering enterprise. The indictment charges that part of the racketeering enterprise was a firm called Shake Down Entertainment, Ltd., incorporated on December 12, 2000 with Mitchell as its resident agent. Shake Down Entertainment produced and promoted rap music recordings. One of the purposes of the criminal enterprise, according to the indictment, was to maintain the rap music business.

Each of the defendants potentially faces the death penalty as to the murder charges. The maximum sentence for racketeering conspiracy is 20 years; and life in prison for conspiracy to distribute narcotics.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent of the charges in the indictment unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

The case was investigated by the Baltimore City Police Department; the Baltimore County Police Department; the Drug Enforcement Administration; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; and the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Robert R. Harding and Christine Manuelian.