



PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOW COUNTRY'S "OPERATION FED UP" YIELDS 23 FEDERAL FIREARMS INDICTMENTS

Columbia, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney W. Walter Wilkins and Ninth Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson announced today that a federal grand jury issued 23 indictments against individuals in Charleston and Berkeley Counties for firearms violations. The indictments are the first presented in "Operation Fed Up," a joint initiative between federal and local law enforcement to combat gun violence in the two counties that was announced last month.

The 23 individuals indicted face charges ranging from being a felon in possession of a firearm, to using a gun during the commission of a drug crime. Maximum possible penalties faced by those indicted range from ten years to life in prison. The names of those indicted were not released, as authorities are executing warrants for their arrests.

Mr. Wilkins stated, "I am extremely proud of the partnership we have forged with Solicitor Wilson and the local law enforcement agencies to identify, indict, and prosecute those who illegally carry and use guns in Charleston and Berkeley Counties. The Operation Fed Up task force has worked very hard over the last few weeks to bring these cases to the attention of the federal grand jury."

Solicitor Wilson stated, "Working together, we are going to bring safer streets to Charleston and Berkeley Counties. I look forward to convictions with stiff sentences for those who have proven time and again that they simply will not follow the law."

Mr. Wilkins stated that the cases were investigated by agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, as well as the Charleston County Sheriff's Department, the City of Charleston Police Department, the North Charleston Police Department, the Hanahan Police Department, and the Goose Creek Police Department.

The United States Attorney stated that all charges in this Indictment are merely accusations and that all defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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