



U. S. Department of Justice

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONSPIRACY TO SMUGGLE AND TRAFFIC IN COUNTERFEIT GOODS

Maxwell Wood, the United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia, announced today that on January 10, 2008, **CHRISTOPHER JACKSON** was sentenced before the Honorable Hugh Lawson, Chief Judge for the United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia.

On September 27, 2007, **JACKSON**, age 24, resident of Macon, Georgia, entered his guilty plea to one count of conspiracy to smuggle and traffic in counterfeit goods, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371, in connection with Title 18, United States Code, Sections 545 and 2320(a).

Da Trap, Inc. was engaged in the business of importing and distributing merchandise including shoes. **JACKSON** and **THOMAS BACON** were corporate officers of Da Trap, Inc.

From on or about March 23, 2005, through on or about August 18, 2006, **JACKSON** and **BACON** caused to be imported, and attempted to import, approximately 702 pairs of purported Nike shoes bearing counterfeit marks into the United States by utilizing several different ports of entry.

As part of the conspiracy, during June 2005 the defendants made a series of five (5) transactions totaling approximately \$30,335.00, transferring said funds from the **Da Trap, Inc.** bank account in the United States to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. On January 12, 2006, law enforcement determined the defendants possessed approximately 264 pairs of counterfeit Nike shoes at the **Da Trap, Inc.**, located at 3430 Napier Avenue, Macon, Georgia.

Thus, the defendants fraudulently and knowingly imported into the United States for subsequent distribution and sale, counterfeit clothing and apparel, including shoes, with a value of approximately \$109,980.00.

JACKSON received a sentence of thirty (30) months, to be followed by three (3) years supervised release. There is no parole in the Federal system.

On August 13, 2007, JACKSON's co-defendant, BACON, age 35, also a Macon resident, likewise pled guilty to a single count of conspiracy to smuggle and traffic in counterfeit goods, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371, in connection with Title 18, United States Code, Sections 545 and 2320(a). On November 15, 2007, BACON was sentenced to forty (40) months imprisonment, to be followed by three (3) years supervised release.

The charges against JACKSON and BACON arose from an investigation conducted by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Bibb County Sheriff's Office. The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Harry J. Fox, Jr.

Any questions concerning this matter should be addressed to Sue McKinney, Public Affairs Specialist, United States Attorney's Office, at 478-621-2602.

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