



Department of Justice

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17 DEFENDANTS SENTENCED IN FEDERAL METHAMPHETAMINE AND FIREARMS CASE

Sentences up to 15 years imposed

Rome, GA - Seventeen defendants convicted in a large-scale drug conspiracy and firearms case were sentenced this week by United States District Judge Harold L. Murphy. The Court imposed sentences up to 15 years in prison. All defendants arrested in this 25-person indictment have now been convicted. The Court is scheduled to sentence the remaining defendants in June and July.

“The large number of defendants convicted in this case and the magnitude of the sentences show that law enforcement is serious about combating the methamphetamine problem in Georgia,” said United States Attorney David E. Nahmias. “These defendants, who were responsible for distributing hundreds of pounds of meth and who illegally used guns to further that drug trade, will be behind bars for a long time.” “Remember,” Nahmias said, “there is no parole for federal crimes.”

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: The defendants distributed methamphetamine in Cedartown, Polk County, Georgia, and the surrounding area, including Piedmont, Alabama. Evidence showed that some defendants regularly received deliveries of up to 40 pounds of methamphetamine at a time, which they would then sell in smaller quantities. Some defendants would often illegally trade firearms, some of which were stolen, in exchange for drugs. Defendants also carried firearms to protect themselves and their drugs. Several defendants received lesser sentences than they otherwise would have because they cooperated with law enforcement against others in this case and in other investigations.

The following defendants have been sentenced to date:

ROY CARL SMITH, age 70, of Piedmont, Alabama, was sentenced to 13 years and 1 month in prison, to be followed by 5 years of supervised release. SMITH forfeited his house, real property, and vehicle as part of his sentence. SMITH was convicted of drug trafficking and firearms crimes.

SUSIE MOTES TERRY, age 53, of Piedmont, Alabama, was sentenced to 2 years and 3 months in prison, to be followed by 4 years of supervised release. TERRY also forfeited a vehicle. Terry, who is defendant Roy Carl Smith's common-law wife, was convicted of drug trafficking crimes.

WILFIAN PEREZ-VASQUEZ, age 29, of Cedartown, Georgia, was sentenced to 4 years and 2 months in prison. PEREZ-VASQUEZ is likely to be deported after he finishes serving his sentence. PEREZ-VASQUEZ was convicted of drug trafficking crimes.

TIMOTHY WAYNE MORRISON, a/k/a TIM TAYLOR, age 45, of Borden Springs, Alabama, was sentenced to 14 years in prison, to be followed by 5 years of supervised release. MORRISON also forfeited three firearms as part of his sentence. MORRISON was convicted of drug trafficking and firearms crimes.

DAVID LEE BELL, age 53, of Piedmont Alabama, was sentenced to 6 years and 8 months in prison, to be followed by 8 years of supervised release. BELL was convicted of drug trafficking crimes.

KEVIN FLOYD LAPIER, age 37, of Piedmont Alabama, was sentenced to 14 years and 10 months years in prison, to be followed by 5 years of supervised release. LAPIER also forfeited a firearm as part of his sentence. LAPIER, who is co-defendant's Susie Motes Terry's nephew, was convicted of drug trafficking and firearms crimes.

SHEILA LANFAIR, age 40, of Piedmont Alabama, was sentenced to 3 years and 5 months in prison, to be followed by 4 years of supervised release. LANFAIR was convicted of drug trafficking crimes.

LARRY KEN DRYDEN, a/k/a JACK DRYDEN, age 55, of Tallapoosa, Georgia, was sentenced to 5 years and 3 months in prison, to be followed by 5 years of supervised release. DRYDEN was convicted of drug trafficking crimes.

RICHARD LEE DINGLER, age 24, of Cedartown, Georgia, was sentenced to 5 years in prison, to be followed by 4 years of supervised release. DINGLER was convicted of firearms crimes.

JERRY EDWARDS, age 55, of Piedmont, Alabama, was sentenced to 7 years and 3 months in prison, to be followed by 5 years of supervised release. EDWARDS was convicted of drug trafficking crimes.

ROBERT JASON POLLARD, age 30, of Piedmont, Alabama, was sentenced to 12 years and 4 months in prison, to be followed by 5 years of supervised release, and 100 hours of community service. POLLARD also forfeited three firearms as part of his sentence. POLLARD was convicted of drug trafficking and firearms crimes.

DONNIE WAYNE MCFRY, age 32, of Piedmont, Alabama, was sentenced to 13 years and 4 months in prison, to be followed by 5 years of supervised release, and 100 hours of community service. MCFRY was convicted of drug trafficking and firearms crimes.

PHILLIP WAYNE ERWIN, age 40, of Esom Hill, Georgia, was sentenced to 5 years in prison, to be followed by 4 years of supervised release and 100 hours of community service. ERWIN was convicted of firearms crimes.

JEFFREY SCOTT SEWELL, age 32, of Carrollton, Georgia, was sentenced to 15 years in prison, to be followed by 5 years of supervised release. SEWELL was convicted of drug trafficking and firearms crimes.

CHARLES MOTES, age 58, of Piedmont, Alabama, was sentenced to 5 years and 3 months in prison, to be followed by 5 years supervised release. MOTES was convicted of drug trafficking crimes.

LIBELLA PINEDA-GUTIERREZ, age 27, of Cedartown, Georgia, was sentenced to 4 years and 8 months in prison. PINEDA-GUTIERREZ is expected to be deported after she finishes serving her sentence. PINEDA-GUTIERREZ, who is co-defendant Roseberg Berrera Beltran's wife, was convicted of drug trafficking and immigration charges.

JOHN SWINDALL, age 39, of Cedartown, Georgia, was sentenced to 7 years and 3 months in prison, to be followed by 5 years of supervised release, and 150 hours of community service. SWINDALL was convicted of drug trafficking charges.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the Polk County and Cedartown Police Departments, and the Celborne County Alabama Sheriff's Department.

Assistant United States Attorneys Kim S. Dammers and William G. Traynor prosecuted the case.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Atlanta recommends parents and children learn about the dangers of drugs at the following web site: www.justthinktwice.com.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney or Yonette Sam-Buchanan, Chief, Terrorism, Violent Crimes and Organized Crimes Unit, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.