



Department of Justice

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY FELON SENTENCED TO OVER 17 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR ILLEGAL GUN POSSESSION

Montgomery, Alabama - Lorenzo Rainer, age 49, of Montgomery, Alabama, was sentenced by Chief United States District Court Judge Mark E. Fuller to 210 months in federal prison for illegal firearm possession, U.S. Attorney Leura G. Canary announced today. A jury from the Middle District of Alabama in Montgomery found Rainer guilty on April 16, 2008, of illegally possessing a firearm while a convicted felon.

Rainer was sentenced to 210 months, which is more than 17 years, in federal prison for possessing a Ruger, .357 Magnum Revolver on June 12, 2007. Rainer possessed the firearm after fleeing from the police on a motorcycle in Montgomery. Rainer got off the motorcycle and ran away on foot. While the police were pursuing him, Rainer turned and pointed the gun at one of the officers. Rainer was eventually captured and police found the pistol during a search of the route he had taken when running away.

Prior to possessing the gun, Rainer had been convicted of multiple felonies, including burglary, robbery, theft of property, escape, and buying, receiving, and concealing stolen property. Because three of these convictions were for violent felonies, the district court judge found that Rainer qualified as an Armed Career Criminal under federal law. This status required the judge to sentence Rainer to no less than 15 years in prison. Based on Rainer's criminal history and the nature and circumstances of the offense, the judge increased Rainer's sentence to

210 months. There is no parole from federal prison.

In addition to the prison sentence, Rainer was also sentenced to serve five years of supervised release under the supervision of a federal probation officer after his prison term expires.

The case was investigated and prosecuted as part of the Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative, which seeks to prevent violent crime through enforcement of federal firearms laws, such as the law prohibiting convicted felons from possessing firearms. The program is known as Alabama ICE in the Middle District of Alabama. According to United States Attorney Leura G. Canary, "A sentence such as the one given to Mr. Rainer shows how important it is to fully prosecute felons who illegally possess firearms. Removing criminals who possess guns from our streets remains a priority of this office."

This case was investigated by officers and agents from the Montgomery Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF"). Assistant United States Attorneys Matthew Shepherd, Verne Speirs, and Monica Stump prosecuted the case.