

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## ***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Karen P. Hewitt***

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***For Immediate Release***

### **NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY** - June 3, 2009

A federal grand jury sitting in San Diego today handed up a five-count indictment charging Jason Ray Hilliard with Possession of Unregistered Machine Guns and Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Crime of Violence, announced United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt. Hilliard, a 36-year-old resident of Lake Elsinore, California, is expected to be arraigned on the indictment on June 9, 2009, before Magistrate Judge William McCurine, Jr.

The indictment alleges that on May 6, 2009, Hilliard unlawfully possessed four automatic weapons – a 5.56mm XM15-E2S Bushmaster machine gun, a .380 caliber Cobray MAC-12 autopistol, and two 7.62x39mm MAK-90 Norinco machine guns – which had not been registered to him in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record. The indictment further alleges that Hilliard unlawfully possessed one .45 caliber 1911A1 Colt semiautomatic handgun while in possession of the automatic weapons.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas Keehn, who is prosecuting the case, Hilliard was previously arraigned and ordered held without bail on a criminal complaint that charged him with possession

of an unregistered firearm. According to the charging documents and the Court's detention order, on May 6, 2009, San Diego Police Department officers observed Hilliard drive erratically and strike another vehicle in the San Diego neighborhood of Pacific Beach. Hilliard forcibly resisted officers when they directed him to exit his vehicle. Officers subsequently found the four automatic weapons, the handgun, a rifle, over one-thousand rounds of ammunition, two loaded one-hundred round drum magazines, a ski mask, gloves, a large black coat, metal "throwing stars" and a wooden billy club in his vehicle. On May 7, 2009, agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Explosives further discovered two pipe bombs and a homemade silencer at Hilliard's residence. The complaint was superseded by today's indictment.

**DEFENDANT**

**Criminal Case No. 09CR2137LAB**

Jason Ray Hilliard (in custody)  
Lake Elsinore, CA

Age: 36

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Counts: Five

Title 26, United States Code, Sections 5861(d) and 5871 - Possession of an Unregistered Firearm

Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1) - Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Crime of Violence

Maximum penalties: 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, per count, for Counts 1 through 4, and 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for Count 5

**PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives  
San Diego Police Department

**An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendant committed the crimes charged. The defendant is presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.**