

NEWS

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Clementon Man Indicted in Connection with
Shooting Death of 14-year-old Lindenwold Boy

(More)

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CAMDEN, N.J. – A Clementon man was indicted yesterday on murder, drug distribution and firearm charges in connection with the murder of a 14-year-old boy in Lindenwold , U.S. Attorneys Christopher J. Christie announced.

The Indictment charges Derrick M. Jones, 27, with one count each of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute crack cocaine, murder in furtherance of a drug trafficking offense and possession of a firearm by a previously convicted felon.

Jones is currently in federal custody in the Western District of Virginia (“WDVA”) awaiting trial, which is scheduled to begin later this month, on a five-count Superseding Indictment charging him in connection with the purchase and possession of the firearm that was used in the killing of 14-year-old Barry Robertson. The WDVA Superseding Indictment, which was returned on Feb. 1, 2007, charges Jones with one count each of traveling in interstate commerce with the intent to commit a crime of violence to further unlawful activity resulting in death; possession of a firearm by a previously convicted felon; possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number; aiding and abetting an unindicted co-conspirator in the purchase of a firearm by providing false information to a licensed federal firearm’s dealer, and knowingly making false statements or representations, or aiding, abetting or procuring the making of false statements or representations that are required to be kept in the records of a person licensed to purchase firearms.

According to the District of New Jersey (“DNJ”) Indictment, Barry Robertson was the unintended target of Jones’ retribution in a drug turf battle with Robertson’s Aunt. The Indictment alleges that during the first half of 2005, Jones sought to control all illegal drug sales in the area of the Arborwood Condominiums in Lindenwold. In response to competition and threats, Jones and others traveled to Radford, Va., on Aug. 3, 2005, and while there arranged to have his sister purchase a firearm to be used in retaliation. According to the Indictment, on Aug. 29, 2005, Robertson was shot and killed while he slept in his Aunt’s residence. The Indictment alleges the killing resulted from Jones firing shots into the condominium in an attempt to kill Robertson’s Aunt.

The U.S. Attorney’s Offices in the Districts of New Jersey and Western Virginia, along with the ATF, Camden County Prosecutor’s Office and the Lindenwold Police Department investigated the case.

A prior news release, dated Nov. 30, 2006, concerning the defendant’s indictment in the WDVA can be found by following the appropriate links on the office website at: <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press>

Count One of the Indictment, which charges conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine, carries a statutory mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years in prison and a maximum penalty of life, plus a \$4million fine.

Count Two, which charges murder in furtherance of a drug trafficking offense, carries a statutory mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years in prison and a maximum penalty of life. If convicted of both counts, the sentence for Count Two is to be consecutive to the sentence for Count One. Count Three, which charges possession of a firearm by a previously convicted felon, carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

In determining an actual sentence, the judge to whom the case is assigned would, upon a conviction, consult the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Despite Indictment, every defendant is presumed innocent, unless and until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, following a trial at which the defendant has all of the trial rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and federal law.

Christie thanked U.S. Attorney John L. Brownlee in the Western District of Virginia for his office's efforts in the case.

Christie credited Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' Philadelphia Division, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Mark Potter; and the ATF's Roanoke Field Office, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge William Hoover, Washington Field Division; and Investigators with the Camden County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Acting Prosecutor Joshua Ottentberg, and Police Officers with the Lindenwold Police Department, under the direction of Chief Frank McHenry, with the investigation.

The government is represented in New Jersey by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jason Richardson and James Lynch of the Criminal Division in Camden.

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