



PRESS NOTICE

***W. WALTER WILKINS
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA***

*1441 Main Street, Suite 500 * Columbia, SC * (803) 929-3000*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT PERSON: KEVIN MCDONALD
 (803) 929-3005**

**FLORENCE FELON SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS
FOR DRUG AND FIREARMS CHARGES**

COLUMBIA, South Carolina -- United States Attorney W. Walter Wilkins announced today that Shawn Altego Cato, age 26, of Florence, South Carolina was sentenced by United States District Judge Terry L. Wooten to 10 years in prison, for federal drug and firearms charges. There is no parole in the federal system.

Evidence in the case established that on October 28, 2009, Florence County Sheriff's deputies seized a loaded gun from Cato's waistband after a traffic stop and brief struggle with officers. While on state bond for that offense, officers with the Florence Police Department recovered two loaded guns and crack cocaine from Cato after searching Cato's apartment on North Guerry Street in Florence on December 11, 2008.

The case was also investigated by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Rose Mary Parham of the Florence Office.