



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias
Northern District of Georgia

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CONTACT: Patrick Crosby
(404)581-6016
FAX (404)581-6160

SO-CALLED "G-SQUAD" MEMBER MAKES APPEARANCE AFTER INDICTMENT FOR STEALING POLICE WEAPONS

Gang Members Allegedly Based In North Fulton/Alpharetta Area

Atlanta, GA -AARINTON GRIFFIN, a/k/a "Saint," 18, of Alpharetta, Georgia, made his first appearance before a federal magistrate today on a federal indictment charging him with possession of an unregistered machine gun and possession of stolen firearms. GRIFFIN was indicted by a grand jury on January 9, 2007.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said of the case, "The federal charges in this case allege that these gang members in the North Fulton area specifically targeted a police officer's house for a burglary of as many weapons as they could get. This criminal behavior shows a brazenness in going right into a law enforcement officer's home to take guns they knew belonged to a police officer, and a particular disregard for safety of the neighborhoods of the North Fulton community."

"It's a sad commentary on the level of violence in Georgia when gang bangers seek to up the ante by arming themselves with machine guns," said Scott Sweetow, Acting Special Agent in Charge of ATF's Atlanta Field Division. "It is amongst the top priorities of ATF to disarm criminals like Mr. Griffin, who could use their ill-gotten firepower to commit more crimes."

According to Nahmias and the information filed in court: On June 26, 2007, ATF learned of a break-in at a law enforcement officer's home at approximately 2:00 p.m., while the officer's girlfriend was in an upstairs room. The officer is a member of a SWAT team. Three individuals stole the officer's agency-issued fully automatic Heckler and Koch (H&K), model G36, .223 caliber machine gun, as well as a Glock, model 22, .40 caliber pistol from the front room of the residence. That same night the Fulton County Police Department received a call from a concerned citizen that gun shots were heard in the woods behind the Kroger located on the corner of State Bridge Road and Jones Bridge Road in Alpharetta, Georgia. Police say the area is known to be a hang out for members of the so-called "G-Squad." When they responded to the call, police saw a juvenile, AARINTON GRIFFIN, and two other unknown individuals behind the Kroger. The

juvenile was taken into custody as GRIFFIN and the other individuals fled on foot into the woods. In addition, the H&K fully automatic machine gun that had been stolen from the police officer's residence was located and recovered in the woods where the men were seen. A subsequent search of GRIFFIN's residence at 11290 Bramshill Drive, in Alpharetta resulted in the recovery of video and still pictures that showed GRIFFIN firing the machine gun and talking to an unknown individual in possession of a Glock pistol. Police also found the machine gun case containing two loaded magazines and boxes of .223 caliber ammunition for the machine gun, as well as two Glock magazines and nine shotgun shells.

Members of the public are reminded that the indictment only contains charges. The defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of ATF's Violent Crime Impact Team, with assistance from the Fulton County Police Department.

Assistant United States Attorney Todd Alley is prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, 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.