



Department of Justice

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MAN SENTENCED FOR ASSAULTING PREGNANT MAIL CARRIER

Robber Violently Stole Parcel Containing Marijuana

Atlanta, GA - HAJJA KENYATTA MARTIN, 35, of Lithonia, Georgia, was sentenced today by United States District Judge William S. Duffey, Jr. to serve 2 years in federal prison on a charge of assaulting and robbing a United States Postal Service mail carrier.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said, "Like all government employees, mail carriers for the U.S. Postal Service deserve protection while carrying out their official duties. In this robber's desperate efforts to steal a package containing illegal drugs, he physically restrained and assaulted not just a postal employee, but an expectant mother. Thankfully, both mother and baby are fine. This defendant, however, will pay for his crime by sitting in federal prison for two years."

"The safety of its employees is critical to the manner in which the Postal Service performs its functions. As the law enforcement, security and crime prevention officers of the Postal Service, U.S. Postal Inspectors promptly investigate incidents of assaults and threats against our employees, and we will continue to make these cases high priority. We have no tolerance for acts of violence committed against our employees and criminal charges are initiated whenever possible in federal or state courts," said Martin D. Phanco, Inspector in Charge, Atlanta Division, U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

MARTIN was sentenced to 2 years in prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release. MARTIN was convicted of these charges when he pleaded guilty on November 20, 2008.

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: On January 10, 2008, United States Postal Service ("USPS") Carrier Markena Jones was assaulted and robbed of a piece of USPS mail while on her route along Rockbridge Road in Lithonia, Georgia. The postal worker had been seated in her vehicle in a parking lot on Rockbridge Road, and was startled by the defendant who suddenly leaned inside the open window of her USPS vehicle. Standing only inches away from

Ms. Jones, who was pregnant at the time, MARTIN demanded to be given a package that she had attempted to deliver earlier on her route. She refused, saying the address on the defendant's license did not match the address on the package.

Suddenly, the defendant reached into postal carrier Jones' vehicle, placed it in park, and removed the keys. He then climbed into the USPS vehicle and got on top of Ms. Jones while she was still in the driver's seat. She attempted to get the defendant off of her so that she could call the police, but she was unable to do so as the defendant had her pinned down. The robber then reached into the back of the postal vehicle, removed a specific package, and then fled.

Sometime later, after the defendant was arrested, he admitted to assaulting the postal carrier and stealing the package because it had marijuana in it. MARTIN pleaded guilty to one count of assault on a postal carrier with intent to rob.

This case was investigated by Investigators of the United States Postal Inspection Service and detectives of the DeKalb County Police Department.

Assistant United States Attorney Matthew T. Jackson prosecuted 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.