



# Department of Justice

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Northern District of Georgia

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## **SEVENTEEN-TIME CONVICTED FELON SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR GUN POSSESSION**

Atlanta, GA - MELVIN MARTIN, 43, of Atlanta, Georgia, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Forrester to serve 15 years in federal prison on a charge of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Acting United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates said, "Guns in the hands of convicted felons pose a very real danger to the community. This defendant had 17 prior felony convictions and still was arrested while possessing drugs and a loaded handgun. Perhaps he thought he could get away with it one more time. He was wrong. This prosecution and sentence exemplify our commitment to protect the citizens of our district from dangerous armed career criminals."

MARTIN was sentenced to 15 years in prison to be followed by 5 years of supervised release. MARTIN pleaded guilty to the charge on October 21, 2009. There is no parole in the federal system.

According to Acting United States Attorney Yates, the charges and other information presented in court: On May 4, 2008, officers with the Atlanta Police Department ("APD") responded to an armed person call. After arriving on the scene, APD officers spoke with witnesses who stated that MARTIN had an argument with a female at a house party. Witnesses informed officers that MARTIN retrieved a firearm from his truck and threatened to kill several of the partygoers. The witnesses told officers that MARTIN put the firearm back in his truck. Officers detained MARTIN outside of his truck and questioned a female passenger in MARTIN's truck about the firearm. The female passenger removed a coat from the backseat of the truck revealing a loaded 9mm handgun. MARTIN was arrested and during a search incident to arrest, officers recovered illegal narcotics including, crack cocaine, powder cocaine and marijuana from MARTIN. MARTIN is an armed career criminal with 17 prior felony convictions, including convictions for possession of cocaine with the intent to distribute, sale of cocaine, burglary and theft by receiving stolen property.

This case was investigated by the Atlanta Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey Brown prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact Sally Q. Yates, Acting 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](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan).