



# Department of Justice

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### WEEK IN REVIEW – HAMMOND

Hammond, Indiana- The United States Attorney's Office announced the following:

- Saba Mohammed, 36, of Gary, Indiana, was charged in an Indictment returned on October 20, 2011 with the felony offenses of impersonating an officer or employee of the United States, an IRS agent, and making false statements to Special Agents from the Department of the Treasury. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Department of the Treasury. This case has been assigned to and will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Gary Bell.

#### PLEAS:

- Ricky Stokes, 25, Tommy Tyner, 28, and Clinton Davis, III, 25, all of Hammond, Indiana, pled guilty without benefit of a plea agreement before Judge Joseph Van Bokkelen to the felony offense of interference with commerce by threat or violence in that they did plan to take cocaine from individuals they believed to be engaged in narcotics trafficking. Sentencing has been set for Stokes and Tyner on 1/6/12. Sentencing has been set for Davis on 1/18/11. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Hammond Police Department. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys David Nozick and Dean Lanter.
- Eloise Blackmon, 52, of Gary, Indiana, pled guilty before Judge Rudy Lozano to the felony offense of attempt and conspiracy to commit mail fraud and wire fraud in the case *US v Gordon Rainey et al.* Sentencing has been set for 4/5/12. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jill Koster.
- Diontria Frazier, 28, of Indianapolis, Indiana, pled guilty before Chief Judge Philip Simon to the felony offense of conspiracy and attempt to commit fraud with identification documents in the case *US v Willie J. Harris et al.* Sentencing has been set for 2/2/12. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the United States

Postal Inspection Service. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Toi Houston.

- Marvin Keyes, 28, of Indianapolis, Indiana, pled guilty before Chief Judge Philip Simon to the felony offense of possession with the intent to distribute heroin in the case *US v Land et al.* Sentencing has been set for 2/17/11. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation GRIT Task force. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Jacqueline Jacobs and Emily Kerkhof.
- Adminadab Martinez-Saenzpardo, 29, of Camby, Indiana, pled guilty before Senior Judge James T. Moody to the felony offense of conspiracy to distribute marijuana in the case *US v Montoya Gonzalez et al.* These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Joshua Kolar.
- Luiz Carlos Gamboa-Chavez, 32, of Gary, Indiana, pled guilty before Senior Judge James T. Moody to the felony offense of possession with the intent to distribute marijuana in the case *US v Fernando-Valdez et al.* These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration HIDTA Task Force. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer Chang-Adiga.

#### DISPOSITIONS:

- Denny L. Minix, 23, of Lafayette, Indiana, was sentenced by Judge Joseph Van Bokkelen to 97 months imprisonment and 20 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to the felony offense of possession of child pornography. Minix will be required to register as a sex offender upon his release from prison.

In January 2010 law enforcement officers acting in an undercover capacity downloaded child pornography images and videos via a peer-to-peer file sharing program operated by Minix. Following those downloads, law enforcement obtained a warrant to search Minix's home. In pleading guilty to possessing child pornography pursuant to his plea agreement with the Government, Minix admitted that he possessed more than 150 sexually explicit depictions featuring minors, including children under the age of 12 and children being caused to engage in sadistic or masochistic conduct or other depictions of violence. Minix also agreed in his plea that he distributed child pornography for the receipt, or expectation of receipt, of a thing of value, but not for pecuniary gain.

The case against Minix was investigated by the Indianapolis Federal Bureau of Investigation in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies which are members of the Indiana Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jill R. Koster as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Project Safe Childhood was launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via

the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

- Robert Lewis Henson, 66, of Flora, Indiana, was sentenced by Chief Judge Philip Simon to 46 months imprisonment and 2 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to the felony offense of being a felon in possession of a firearm. This case was the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nicholas Padilla.
- Odell Morris III, 30, of East Chicago, Indiana, was sentenced by Chief Judge Philip Simon to 108 months imprisonment followed by three years of supervised release, following his felony conviction for distribution of crack cocaine. In September 2011, the FBI GRIT Task Force used a confidential informant to make multiple controlled purchases of crack cocaine from Morris in Gary, Indiana, after which additional crack cocaine and drug trafficking paraphernalia was recovered during a search warrant executed at Morris's Gary residence. At sentencing, Judge Simon found Morris responsible for distribution of 680 grams of crack cocaine over a six month time period. Morris has prior felony convictions for vehicular hijacking with a weapon and burglary. Morris has been in custody since his October 2010 arrest. This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation GRIT Task Force. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Dean Lanter.
- Marva Bernard, 72, of Gary, Indiana, was sentenced by Chief Judge Philip Simon to 2 years of probation after pleading guilty to the felony offense of distribution of heroin, to run concurrently to her term of supervised release following her unrelated federal felony conviction for health care fraud, for which she was recently sentenced to 12 months imprisonment. This case was the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Dean Lanter.
- Jesse Shackelford, 51, of Lafayette, Indiana, was sentenced by Judge Joseph Van Bokkelen to 24 months imprisonment and 4 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to the felony offense of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute marijuana. This case was the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration and U.S. Immigration and Custom Office of Homeland Security Investigations. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer Chang-Adiga.
- Anthony Lee Cruz, 32, of Gary, Indiana, was sentenced by Senior Judge James T. Moody to 30 months imprisonment and 2 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to the felony offense of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Cruz was previously convicted of being a felon in possession of a firearm; making false statements in the acquisition of firearms; and auto theft and receiving stolen auto parts. This case was the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Hobart Police Department. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nicholas Padilla
- Aaron Cooper, 19, of Chicago, Illinois, was sentenced by Judge Joseph Van Bokkelen to 111 months imprisonment and 3 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to the felony offenses of stealing a firearm from a licensed dealer, Jack's Loan Office in Gary,

Indiana, and use of a firearm during a federal crime of violence in the case *US v Ryan Ross et al.* This case was the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Gary Police Department. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Jacqueline Jacobs and David Nozick.

- Christopher Abney, 38, of Crawfordsville, Indiana, was sentenced by Senior Judge James T. Moody to 120 months imprisonment and 8 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to the felony offense of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute marijuana in the case *US v Montelongo et al.* This case was the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration and U.S. Immigration and Custom Office of Homeland Security Investigations. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer Chang-Adiga and Joshua Kolar.

The United States Attorney's Office emphasized that an Indictment is merely an allegation and that all persons charged are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

The specific sentence in each case to be imposed upon conviction will be determined by the judge after a consideration of federal sentencing statutes and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines.