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**MORGAN CITY MAN SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT
FOR DRUG CHARGES**

Defendant receives eight years in prison

Lafayette, La.: United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced today the sentencing of Jahmar Kelly, 22, of Morgan City, La. Kelly was sentenced to eight years in prison for each count, to run concurrent, and four years supervised release for each count, to run consecutive. The sentence is a result of Kelly's plea of guilty to two counts of distributing five grams or more of cocaine base ("crack"). The sentence was imposed by U. S. District Judge Richard T. Haik.

Kelly and ten co-defendants were indicted in August 2009 on a variety of drug trafficking charges and unlawful use of a communication facility. The prosecution was a culmination of a 2 ½ year investigation by the South Central Louisiana Safe Streets Gang Task Force, which is comprised of agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office, Iberia Parish Sheriff's Office, St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office, St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office, Lafayette Police Department and Morgan City Police Department.

This multi-agency investigation into the organization revealed a complex drug trafficking network whose primary interest was distribution of cocaine and cocaine base ("crack"). Member of this drug trafficking organization were involved in an illegal interstate scheme to transport cocaine from Houston, TX and distribute the cocaine into St. Mary Parish, La., and also, to manufacture, distribute and transport cocaine and cocaine base ("crack") to St. Mary Parish, La. The organization was responsible for distributing multiple kilos of cocaine and cocaine base ("crack") and then transporting the money derived from the drug sales back to the Houston, TX area. Kelly was responsible for purchasing and distributing approximately 300 grams of cocaine base ("crack").

The case was investigated by the South Central Louisiana Safe Streets Gang Task Force with additional assistance from officers with the St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office and the Morgan City Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Daniel J. McCoy.

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