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**SUPERSEDING INDICTMENT RETURNED CHARGING JOHNNIE BUTLER AND
TWO OTHERS IN BALTIMORE DRUG CONSPIRACY**

Baltimore, Maryland - A federal grand jury returned a superseding indictment today charging Johnnie Butler, age 33 of Nottingham, Maryland; Calvin Wright, age 37; and Daron Ashe, age 22; all of Baltimore, with conspiracy to distribute heroin, cocaine and other drugs, announced United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein and Baltimore City State's Attorney Patricia C. Jessamy.

According to the four count indictment, Butler, a/k/a Jr., operated a drug distribution organization that utilized locations in Baltimore, such as the 5000 block of Belair Road, Greenmount Avenue and 29th Street, and Collington Avenue and Eager Street, to package, store and distribute drugs and collect money from drug customers. The indictment alleges that members of the conspiracy resupplied the street inventory as needed and used guns to protect the drugs and drug proceeds and to further the drug organization.

Specifically, the indictment alleges that on October 20, 2007, Butler shot and killed Fernando Rodriguez, who had supplied heroin and cocaine to Butler, and that Wright, a/k/a Turkey, assisted Butler in disposing of the body of Fernando Rodriguez. The indictment further alleges that Butler and Wright illegally possessed firearms which they used in furtherance of the drug conspiracy. According to the indictment, in May and June 2008, Butler obtained a total of over 1.5 kilograms from two separate sources and on June 21, 2008, Ashe, a/k/a Twin, distributed heroin to an inmate at the Jessup Pre-Release Unit and on July 21, 2008, Wright distributed heroin in the area of Whitelock Street and Mt. Royal Terrace.

The indictment seeks the forfeiture of \$800,000, alleged to be the proceeds of the conspiracy, as well as several vehicles.

The defendants all face a maximum sentence of life in prison for conspiracy to distribute controlled substances. Butler also faces a maximum penalty of life in prison for discharging a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. Butler and Wright face a maximum penalty of life in prison for possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime and a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison for illegal possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. No court appearance has been scheduled and the defendants remain in federal custody.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein and Baltimore City State's Attorney Patricia C. Jessamy thanked the Baltimore City Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration for their work in this Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force investigation. Mr. Rosenstein and Ms. Jessamy commended Assistant United States Attorney George J. Hazel and Special Assistant United States Attorney Christine M. Siemek, a cross-designated Baltimore City Assistant State's Attorney assigned to EXILE cases, who are prosecuting the case and Assistant State's Attorneys Melissa Copeland, Jerry Jones and Michael Studdard, who are assisting in the prosecution.