



*U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Southern District of Mississippi*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 27, 2010**

Eleven Individuals Arrested on Drug Charges

Jackson, Miss - Nine individuals were arraigned in federal court this week and charged with conspiracy to distribute more than 1000 kilograms of marijuana, U.S. Attorney Donald R. Burkhalter announced today. The defendants charged in the criminal indictment filed on August 18, 2010 are:

Jessie Jerome Hall, 36, of Newton, MS;
Michael Anthony Taylor, 44, of Houston, TX;
Keith Orlington Foggy, 35, of Jackson, MS;
Damon Javernon Jones, 33, of Forest, MS;
Willie Roy Nelson, Jr., 21, of Forest, MS;
Eric Anton Boone, 21, of Forest, MS;
Sandra Denn Bland, 40, of Forest, MS;
Shannon Denise Hall, 39, of Morton, MS;
Charlie Earl Powell, 40, of Meridian, MS.

If convicted, they face a maximum penalty of life in prison and a \$4,000,000 fine.

In an additional indictment also filed on August 18, 2010, Jessie Jerome Hall, 36, of Newton, MS, Lornell Von Moore, 45, of Louin, MS, and Jimmie Lashawn Bender, 30, of Bay Springs, were arraigned on a charge of conspiring to distribute more than 100 kilograms of marijuana. If convicted, they face a maximum penalty of 40 years in prison and a \$2,000,000 fine.

The defendants in both cases have been arraigned in federal court and are set for trial on November 2, 2010, before U.S. District Judge Tom S. Lee.

Over a million dollars worth of marijuana, cash, and assets have been seized during this investigation. These arrests and seizures are the result of a lengthy investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics.

Criminal indictments are only charges and not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed to be innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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