

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Camden Man Sentenced to 108 months in Federal Prison for Illegally Trafficking in Firearms

(More)

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CAMDEN – A Camden man was sentenced to 108 months in federal prison today for illegally trafficking in firearms including several SKS assault rifles, which is a version of the Russian AK-47 assault rifle, Acting U.S. Attorney Ralph J. Marra, Jr., announced.

U.S. District Judge Noel L. Hillman also ordered Angel Nieves, 30, to serve three years of supervised release upon the completion of his prison term.

Nieves pleaded guilty before Judge Hillman on Feb. 26, 2009, to a two-count Information that charged him with unlicensed dealing in firearms and being a felon in possession of firearms.

At his plea hearing, Nieves admitted that on three separate occasions in July and August 2008, he sold an SKS 7.62x39 mm caliber rifle, a 30 round magazine and between 62 and 453 rounds of ammunition, each time in return for \$1000. On another occasion, Nieves sold a .45 caliber Remington semi-automatic pistol with an obliterated serial number and 9 rounds of ammunition in exchange for \$750, he admitted.

Nieves admitted that he sold the weapons to an individual who, unbeknownst to him, was an undercover law enforcement officer.

Nieves was arrested on the morning of Nov. 3, 2008, by members of the FBI Violent Crimes Task Force on a criminal Complaint, which was issued under seal on Oct. 30, 2008.

The charge of dealing in firearms without a license carries a maximum statutory sentence of 5 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. The charge of possession of a firearm by a previously convicted felon carries a maximum statutory sentence of 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Hillman will consult the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Marra credited Special Agents of the FBI's Philadelphia Division, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Janice K. Fedarck; Troopers with the N.J. State Police, under the direction of Col. Joseph R. Fuentes, Superintendent; Investigators with the Camden

County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Warren W. Faulk; Police Officers with the Camden Police Department, under the direction of Chief Scott Thomson; and Special Agents with ATF, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Mark Potter in Philadelphia, with the investigation leading to the criminal Complaint.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin Smith of the Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Lori Koch, Esq. Assistant Federal Public Defender