

# NEWS

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United States Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey  
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Newark, New Jersey 07102

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***Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney***

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***More Information?*** Call the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

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## “Fruit Town Brims” Bloods Members Charged Federally for Murder in Aid of Racketeering in Shooting of Teen

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NEWARK – Five members of the Fruit Town Brims (FTB) set of the Bloods street gang based in Paterson and Jersey City have been indicted for the July 19, 2004, murder of an innocent Jersey City teenager, whom they mistakenly believed was a non-gang member who had disrespected and shot at a fellow FTB member during a drug-related dispute earlier that day, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

Three bystanders, including a three-year-old boy, were hit by stray bullets during the incident, and the Indictment charges the defendants for those assaults as well.

The Indictment charges four defendants – all of whom were previously charged by the Hudson County Prosecutor’s Office – with the series of violent crimes in aid of racketeering stemming from the 2004 murder of M.T., as the victim is identified in the federal Indictment.

A fifth defendant, David Ariste, 25, of East Orange was not previously charged by the Hudson County Prosecutor’s Office, but was charged in the federal Indictment. Ariste is currently charged in Passaic County with a separate gang-related murder.

All five of the defendants are charged with murder, murder conspiracy, four counts of aggravated assault – all in aid of racketeering. All are charged additionally with a federal weapons possession offense.

“This is among the most tragic examples of the danger of the proliferation of gangs in our cities,” said Christie. “Here, an innocent young man was cut down, caught in the senseless cycle of gang violence. We intend to bring the full weight of federal prosecution against these ruthless individuals.”

The Indictment charges the purported “status” members of the Brims, Emmanuel Jones, 22, of Jersey City, and Torien Brooks, 26, of Paterson; and members and associates Anthony Walker, 24, of Jersey City; David Ariste, 25, of East Orange; and Matthew Turner, 28, of Jersey City.

Jones, Walker, Ariste and Turner all were brought from state custody today for initial appearances in federal court. U.S. Magistrate Judge Claire C. Cecchi ordered them all detained and at least all four temporarily returned to state custody locations from where they were brought pursuant to federal writs.

Brooks is currently in state custody for his December 2006 guilty plea to a Passaic County robbery and did not appear in federal court today. He too is charged in the Hudson County murder indictment.

In light of the case being adopted for federal prosecution, Hudson County Prosecutor

Edward J. De Fazio has agreed to dismiss the local murder indictment tomorrow.

The Indictment describes the racketeering activities of the Fruit Town Brims, including the set's development in Los Angeles, Ca., their involvement in narcotics trafficking and robberies and their requirement of retaliation against people who "disrespect" Bloods members or the set itself.

According to state charges, Walker became involved in a dispute with a non-gang member in Jersey City, allegedly over a drug deal gone awry, among other things. After the non-gang member allegedly shot at Walker, members of the Fruit Town Brims, including the federally charged defendants organized a retaliation.

In the process of attempting to kill the offending non-gang member, two armed members of the Fruit Town Brims shot an individual whom they thought was the non-gang member. The unintended target, an innocent 17-year-old non-gang member, was killed, and three other bystanders were hit by stray bullets.

Christie credited Special Agents of the FBI, under the direction of Acting Special Agent in Charge Pedro Ruiz, along with law enforcement officers from the Hudson County Prosecutor's, under the direction of Prosecutor DeFazio, the Jersey City Police Department, under the direction of Police Chief Thomas J. Comey, and the Office and the Hudson County Sheriff Department, under the direction of Sheriff Joseph T. Cassidy.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Melissa L. Jampol and Scott McBride, of the U.S. Attorney's Criminal Division in Newark.

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