

NEWS

United States Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey
401 Market Street, Fourth Floor
Camden, New Jersey 08101



Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney

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

News on the Internet: News Releases, related documents and advisories are posted short-term at our website, along with links to our archived releases at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. **Go to:** <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press/>

CONTACT:

Greg Reinert, Public Information Officer
856-757-5233

jone1130.rel
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 30, 2006

Clementon Man Indicted on Gun Charges in Connection with Shooting Death of 14 Year-old Lindenwold Boy

(More)

Greg Reinert, PAO
Public Affairs Office

856-757-5233
973-645-2888

Breaking News (NJ) <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press/>

CAMDEN, N.J. – A Clementon man was taken into federal custody today on a four-count federal Indictment charging him with weapons offenses for the purchase and possession of a firearm which was used in the murder of a 14-year-old boy in Lindenwold, U.S. Attorneys Christopher J. Christie, District of New Jersey, and John L. Brownlee, Western District of Virginia, announced.

The Indictment, which was returned on Nov. 2, 2006, by a grand jury sitting the Western District of Virginia, charges Derrick M. Jones, 26, with one count each of possession of a firearm by a previously convicted felon; possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number; aiding and abetting an unindicted co-conspirator in the purchase of a firearm by providing false information to a licensed federal firearms dealer, and knowingly making false statements or representations, or aiding, abetting or procuring the making of false statements or representations that are required to be kept in the records of a person licensed to purchase firearms.

A criminal Complaint, which was filed in the Western District of Virginia on Oct. 27, 2006, charges Jones in connection with the homicide of 14-year-old Barry Robertson, the unintended target of retribution in a drug turf battle. The complaint alleges that during the first half of 2005, Jones sought to control all illegal drug sales in the area of the Arborwood Condominiums in Lindenwold, N.J. In response to competition and threats, Jones traveled to Radford, Va., and while there arranged to purchase a firearm to be used in retaliation. According to the Complaint, on Aug. 29, 2005, Jones shot and killed Barry Robertson while Robertson was in his Aunt's residence in the Arborwood Condominiums.

"This is a tragic example of the carnage that comes from illegal guns," said Christie. "Weapons purchased easily out of state are brought here to settle scores and defend drug-trafficking and gang turf with tragic result. Mr. Jones can count on the full weight of federal prosecution for his wanton disregard for human life."

Jones appeared before U.S. Magistrate Joel Schneider in Camden today for an extradition hearing. Judge Schneider ordered that Jones be returned to the Western District Virginia to face charges contained in the Indictment.

Jones was arrested on state charges in connection with an earlier assault on Sept. 20, 2005, and has been held in lieu of bail. The New Jersey state charges of aggravated assault and making terroristic threats were dismissed yesterday in favor of having the defendant face federal charges. The U.S. Attorney's Offices in the Districts of New Jersey and Western Virginia, along with the ATF, Camden County Prosecutor's Office and the Lindenwold Police Department are continuing the investigation.

According to the Complaint, following his release in January 2005 from the N.J. Department of Corrections for convictions on drug distribution and firearms charges, Jones and other

individuals formed “OGM” (Organization to Get Money). Through OGM, Jones attempted to control all drug trafficking in the area of the Arborwood Condominiums. During his attempt to gain control, Jones had a confrontation in mid-July with Thelma Robertson, a.k.a. “Rochelle,” regarding her refusal to sell marijuana under his direct control, according to the Complaint

On July 27, 2005, Jones and his girlfriend were assaulted by two masked men who were waiting in Jones’s and his girlfriend’s apartment in Clementon. According to the Complaint, the attackers were arrested in a vehicle driven by Robertson’s live-in boyfriend. All three men were charged with robbery and burglary offenses.

Following the assaults, Jones and his girlfriend hid out in an area hotel room until Jones’ sister drove them and another member of OGM to Radford, Va., where the sister was attending college, according to the Complaint. It was there that Jones decided to arm himself and retaliate against Robertson by shooting her and at her residence in an effort to gain control of drug trafficking in the area, according to the complaint. On Aug. 25, Jones accompanied his sister to have her purchase a Hi-Point .45 caliber handgun and a box of ammunition, since she was not a previously convicted felon, according to the Complaint. Jones then allegedly filed down the serial number on the handgun and placed it in a diaper bag for a bus ride back to New Jersey.

According to the Complaint, between Aug. 26 and 28, Jones discussed with another member of OGM his plan to shoot Robertson in an attempt to regain his “street creds” and to expand his drug dealing presence. During this period, Jones and another OGM member planned to murder Robertson, but postponed the shooting because too many people were in the area. According to the Complaint, on Aug. 28 Jones told his girlfriend it would “go down tonight” and stated he would use the “path” that connects Coachman’s Apartments and Arborwood Condominiums.

At approximately 4:25 a.m. on Aug. 29, Lindenwold Police Officers were responding to a report of a man with a gun at the Arborwood Condominiums when a dispatcher informed the officers that a male had been shot at that location. According to the Complaint, Jones was seen in the area with a large black handgun. Jones was also seen firing the weapon and running from the area by witnesses, according to the Complaint. Following the shooting, Jones was allegedly heard bragging that he had shot into the apartment and that the death of a child would not alter his plans to control the drug trade at Arborwood Condominiums.

Despite Indictment, every defendant is presumed innocent, unless and until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, following a trial at which the defendant has all of the trial rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and federal law.

Christie thanked U.S. Attorney John L. Brownlee in the Western District of Virginia for his office’s efforts in the case.

Christie credited Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' Philadelphia Division, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Mark Potter; and the ATF's Roanoke Field Office, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge William Hoover, Washington Field Division; and Investigators with the Camden County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Acting Prosecutor James P. Lynch, and Police Officers with the Lindenwold Police Department, under the direction of Chief Frank McHenry, with the investigation.

The government was represented at today's hearing in New Jersey by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason Richardson of the Criminal Division in Camden.

-end-