



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS RELEASE

United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian announced today the Indictment against a Canastota man and his sister on drug and weapons offenses.

ROBERT S. ATKINSON, a/k/a “cloudy”, age 39, of Canastota, and his sister, MELISSA A. DAGER, age 42, of Oneida, were charged by a federal grand jury in Syracuse, New York, on November 2, 2011, in a four count Indictment. Count 1 of the Indictment charges ATKINSON and DAGER with a conspiracy to manufacture, possess with intent to distribute, and distribute methamphetamine between April 2011 and June 28, 2011, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846. If convicted on Count 1, ATKINSON and DAGER could each face up to 20 years imprisonment, to be followed by at least 3 years of supervised release, and a fine of up to \$1,000,000.

Count 2 of the Indictment charges ATKINSON and DAGER with possessing, between January 1, 2011 and June 28, 2011, pseudoephedrine with knowledge it would be unlawfully manufactured into methamphetamine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(c)(2). If convicted on Count 2, ATKINSON and DAGER could face up to 10 years imprisonment, followed by a term of supervised release of up to 3 years, and a fine of up to \$250,000.

Count 3 of the Indictment charges ATKINSON with using and maintaining a place, 1080 Palmer Drive, Canastota, between April 5, 2011 and June 28, 2011, for the purpose of manufacturing, distributing, and using a controlled substances, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 856. If convicted on Count 3, ATKINSON could face up to 20 years imprisonment, to be followed by up to 5 years of supervised release, a fine of up to \$500,000 and a civil penalty of up to \$250,000.

Count 4 of the Indictment charges ATKINSON with being a drug user in possession of

firearms from April 2011 until June 28, 2011. If convicted on Count 4, ATKINSON could face up to 10 years imprisonment, to be followed by up to 3 years of supervised release, and a fine of up to \$250,000.

The Indictment also contains a forfeiture allegation in which the United States announced it's intention to seek potential forfeiture of ATKINSON's residence, 1080 Palmer Drive, Canastota, as well as the firearms he is charged with possessing while a user of illegal drugs.

The defendants were arrested on November 3, 2011 for the above charges, and were arraigned in U.S. District Court in Syracuse before the Hon. David E. Peebles, who ordered both defendants detained, pending detention hearings scheduled for Monday, November 7th.

This case originated with an investigation by the City of Oneida Police Department and a prosecution by the District Attorney's Office for Madison County. The federal case against ATKINSON and DAGER has been investigated by the City of Oneida Police Department, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the United States Marshals Service, the New York State Police, the New York State Health Department, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The federal case against ATKINSON and DAGER is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Carl G. Eurenus, who can be reached at 448-0672.

The indictment is merely an accusation, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.