



*United States Attorney
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**MEMBER OF VIOLENT STREET GANG "MURDER UNIT"
SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that DARRYL HENDERSON, a/k/a "D-Boss," a/k/a "D," a/k/a "Dee," a/k/a "2001," a/k/a "Tariq Henderson," a member of a violent street gang called Murder Unit, was sentenced earlier today by United States District Judge RICHARD OWEN to life imprisonment in Manhattan federal court. On January 22, 2007, HENDERSON was convicted by a jury of felony murder, racketeering, and robbery and narcotics charges. This sentencing stems from an investigation into the illegal activities of Murder Unit, including a triple-homicide that occurred on January 21, 2002.

As established by the proof at trial, HENDERSON was a long-time member of Murder Unit, a violent street gang that sold large amounts of crack cocaine in the vicinity of Gerard Avenue and 157th Street, in the Bronx, just blocks from Yankee Stadium, between 1995 and 2002. The proof at trial showed that HENDERSON, along with two other Murder Unit gang members, also participated in a conspiracy to rob a Gerard Avenue apartment of more than \$500,000 worth of cocaine. During the robbery, two men and a woman who were inside the apartment were tortured and murdered. The victims were bound and gagged, stabbed multiple times on various parts of their bodies, and had their throats slashed wide open. Before leaving the apartment with the stolen cocaine, one of the co-conspirators turned on the gas to the kitchen stove, in an attempt to burn or blow up the crime scene.

In all, the jury convicted HENDERSON on seven counts of the Indictment, including racketeering and racketeering conspiracy, conspiracy to distribute cocaine, conspiracy to rob and robbery of cocaine, and conspiracy to distribute and distribution of "crack" cocaine. As part of its racketeering verdict, the jury found HENDERSON guilty of participating in three acts of felony murder, one for each of the three victims of

the cocaine robbery. HENDERSON was acquitted of five counts, including three murder counts that carried a potential death sentence. Four of the seven counts on which HENDERSON was convicted carried a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. On each of those four counts, Judge OWEN sentenced HENDERSON to life in prison without the possibility of release.

Co-defendant CHAROD BECTON pleaded guilty on November 1, 2006, shortly before the start of trial against HENDERSON, but has not yet been sentenced.

Mr. GARCIA praised the outstanding efforts of the New York City Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in this case.

Assistant United States Attorneys KATHERINE A. LEMIRE and DAVID M. RODY are in charge of the prosecution.

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