



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

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**FINAL MEMBER OF THE BARNES BROTHER ORGANIZATION, A  
PEEKSKILL DRUG ENTERPRISE, IS FOUND GUILTY AFTER  
LENGTHY TRIAL**

LEV L. DASSIN, the Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that on May 22, 2009, after a seven-week trial, a jury sitting in White Plains federal court found TUERE BARNES, a/k/a "Mark," a/k/a "Rey," guilty of one count of racketeering, one count of racketeering conspiracy, one count of narcotics conspiracy, one count of conspiracy to kidnap, one count of kidnapping, one count of conspiracy to murder, and one count of possession of a firearm in connection with a crime of violence.

This case stems from BARNES's membership and participation in the Barnes Brothers Organization, a racketeering enterprise centered in Peekskill, New York, that, from 1995 through at least March 2004, was involved in the distribution of large quantities of crack cocaine, powder cocaine, and marijuana, as well as acts of violence including kidnapping and attempted murder. The evidence at trial established that at its peak in the fall of 2003, the Barnes Brothers Organization was distributing well over 100 grams of crack on a daily basis.

The evidence at trial also established, among other things, that in November, 2003, BARNES and three other members of the Organization tried unsuccessfully to rob drugs from their then-supplier by kidnapping one of the supplier's workers after a meeting in Yonkers, near the Bronx border. When the victim refused to turn over any drugs or to direct the robbery crew to the stash house, BARNES and his co-conspirators beat the victim, forced the victim at gunpoint into an SUV, and drove him off to kill him. BARNES was the driver of that SUV. While en route, one of BARNES's co-conspirators threatened the victim at gunpoint, showed him photographs of his children in his wallet, and told him he would never see them again. The kidnapping victim escaped shortly

thereafter by diving out of the SUV while it was traveling at 30-40 miles per hour on Broadway in the Bronx.

In March, 2004, when BARNES and several of his co-conspirators were arrested, agents seized hundreds of grams of crack and powder cocaine from stash houses used by members of the racketeering organization, as well as numerous firearms and ammunition.

In addition to being found guilty of the crimes cited above, BARNES was acquitted of three attempted murder counts and two counts of conspiracy to murder.

The conviction of TUERE BARNES for these crimes is the result of a lengthy wiretap investigation and close coordination among the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Peekskill Police Department, and the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.

In total, 11 members of the Barnes Brothers Organization were arrested, and with the conviction of TUERE BARNES last Friday, all 11 have been found guilty. (One other defendant in the case, ANTHONY PAULINO, a/k/a "Toasty," who is not alleged to be a member of the Barnes organization, has not been arrested.) BARNES is scheduled to be sentenced by United States District Judge STEPHEN C. ROBINSON on November 12, 2009, at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. DASSIN said, "The conviction of TUERE BARNES marks the successful conclusion of an investigation that exemplified the collaboration between federal and local law enforcement at its best. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the DEA and the Peekskill Police Department, a dangerous and prolific drug organization that plagued Peekskill for years has been dismantled."

Assistant United States Attorneys DAVID V. HARBACH, II and JOHN M. HILLEBRECHT are in charge of the prosecution.

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