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**FOUR DEFENDANTS SENTENCED ON FEDERAL MURDER CHARGES
IN CONNECTION WITH MARIJUANA OPERATION**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that four defendants were sentenced to decades in prison yesterday by United States District Judge JED S. RAKOFF on murder, firearms, and conspiracy to distribute marijuana charges. DAMIAN BROWN, a/k/a "Bossy," was sentenced to 32.5 years in prison; SHAWN PETERKIN, a/k/a "Shawn James," was sentenced to 45 years in prison; and FRANZ GOLDING, a/k/a "Frank," and DWAYNE PALMER, a/k/a "Leon," a/k/a "Kay-Pas," were each sentenced to 35 years in prison.

The four defendants were convicted in June 2008, following a two-week jury trial, of murder in connection with the April 16, 2005 shooting of KEINO SIMPSON in the Bronx in furtherance of their marijuana operation, for conspiring to distribute marijuana in the Bronx, for using firearms in connection with their marijuana business, and for illegally possessing firearms and ammunition. According to the evidence at trial:

From November 2003 until March 2005, the defendants owned and operated a large-scale marijuana distribution business in the Bronx. They received supplies of marijuana, among other ways, in multi-pound packages through Federal Express and United Parcel Service at various commercial mailbox locations throughout Manhattan and Westchester County. The defendants then sold the marijuana in pound quantities to smaller marijuana dealers in the Bronx.

In early April 2005, the defendants engaged in a series of violent confrontations with SIMPSON and another individual, OMAR KEN, which began with SIMPSON and KEN carrying out a home invasion robbery of PETERKIN. During the course of the robbery, SIMPSON and KEN took approximately twenty-five pounds of marijuana and approximately \$50,000 in marijuana proceeds from PETERKIN's home. In the early morning hours of April 16, 2005, PETERKIN, BROWN, GOLDING, and PALMER encountered SIMPSON and KEN

in the area of 219th Street and White Plains Road, in the Bronx. At that time, the defendants, who were all in one car, started firing at SIMPSON and KEN, who were in two separate cars, with five firearms, including four handguns and an AK-47 assault rifle. The defendants pursued SIMPSON in a high-speed car chase for more than a mile through the streets of the Bronx, until they reached the area of Gun Hill Road and Gates Place. There, with bullets from the confrontation entering parked cars and a nearby apartment building, SIMPSON crashed his car, and the defendants shot and killed him.

PETERKIN, GOLDING, and PALMER were arrested approximately twenty-four hours later at the Courtesy Motel, in Fort Lee, New Jersey, where they had fled after the murder. BROWN was arrested approximately two weeks later in Newark, New Jersey. Before being charged with murder, all four defendants were initially charged in federal court with illegally possessing firearms or ammunition on April 16, 2005, because of their status as illegal aliens (BROWN, GOLDING, and PALMER) or a convicted felon (PETERKIN). Subsequently, OMAR KEN was charged with and pleaded guilty to the home invasion robbery of PETERKIN.

BROWN, PETERKIN, GOLDING, and PALMER were convicted of one count of murder in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime; one count of using a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, and participating in a conspiracy to distribute marijuana. In addition, BROWN, GOLDING, and PALMER were convicted of illegally possessing firearms or ammunition while being illegal aliens, and PETERKIN was convicted of illegally possessing a firearm as a convicted felon.

Before imposing sentence, Judge RAKOFF stated that the "most severe of punishments" is warranted for the defendants' conduct in murdering SIMPSON. In imposing PETERKIN's sentence, Judge RAKOFF noted that PETERKIN was a "ringleader" of the marijuana conspiracy and that he had a "material role in organizing the murder."

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative work of the New York Office of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and the New York City Police Department.

Assistant United States Attorneys MICHAEL Q. ENGLISH and JESSICA A. MASELLA are in charge of the prosecution.