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SUPERSEDING INDICTMENT CHARGES KIDADA SAVAGE IN DRUG MURDER PLOT; KABONI SAVAGE CHARGED WITH 12TH MURDER

Indictment Charges Kidada Savage With Arson Murders Of Family Of Six

PHILADELPHIA - United States Attorney Zane David Memeger, FBI Special Agent-in-Charge George Venizelos, and Philadelphia Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey, today announced the unsealing of a second superseding indictment¹ against Kaboni Savage, Robert Merritt, Steven Northington, and Kidada Savage, charging each with conspiring to participate in a long-term, large-scale violent drug trafficking enterprise that operated primarily in the North Philadelphia area from at least late 1997 to 2010 ("RICO" conspiracy). The second superseding indictment alleges that Kidada Savage participated in the plot to firebomb and murder the six members of federal witness Eugene Coleman's family on October 9, 2004, while federal charges were pending against her brother Kaboni Savage, Steven Northington, and others. Killed in that fire were Coleman's mother, Marcella Coleman (age 54); Coleman's infant son, Damir Jenkins (15 months old); Marcella Coleman's niece, Tameka Nash (age 34), and her daughter, Khadjah Nash (age 10); Marcella Coleman's grandson Tahj Porchea (age 12); and nephew Sean Rodriguez (age 15). Kidada Savage was arrested today and will make an initial appearance in federal magistrate's court tomorrow.

The second superseding indictment also charges Kaboni Savage with a 12th count of murder in aid of racketeering activity, adding the charge that Kaboni Savage ordered the murder of Carlton Brown, a/k/a "Mohammed," on September 13, 2001. Kaboni Savage and Robert Merritt are also charged with the murders of the Coleman family, and one count of conspiracy to commit murder in aid of racketeering activity; and Northington remains charged with two counts of murder in aid of racketeering activity and one count of witness tampering. Kaboni Savage, Robert Merritt, and Kidada Savage are also charged with one count of retaliating against a witness, and one count of using fire to commit a felony.

¹An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

“Acts of witness intimidation clearly tear at the heart of our system of justice,” said Memeger. “This latest indictment shows that law enforcement and the federal government will not rest until all responsible parties face prosecution for their participation in these heinous crimes.”

“This case demonstrates that the FBI’s commitment and dedication to addressing these types of horrific violent crimes never fades,” said Venizelos. “This long-term and continuing investigation will end only when all of the members of this criminal enterprise have been brought to justice.”

The second superseding indictment also alleges the following murders:

- ▶ the March 19, 1998, murder of Kenneth Lassiter, age 44, of Lansdale, PA, by Kaboni Savage, near the corner of 8th and Butler Streets in Philadelphia;
- ▶ the August 2, 2000 murder of Mansur “Shafiq” Abdullah, age 22, of 11th Street, Philadelphia, by Kaboni Savage and Kareem Bluntly (now deceased). Abdullah was shot and his burned body was later recovered in the 4200 block of North Park Avenue, in Philadelphia;
- ▶ the September 13, 2001 murder of Carlton “Mohammed” Brown, age 27, of Darien Street, Philadelphia, by Lamont Lewis, at 2800 South 64th Street, in Philadelphia;
- ▶ the February 26, 2003 murder of Barry Parker, age 32, of Susquehanna Avenue, Philadelphia, by Kaboni Savage and Steven Northington, in the 3900 block of North Franklin Street, in Philadelphia;
- ▶ the March 14, 2003 murder of Tyrone Toliver, age 26, of Cherry Hill, NJ, by Kaboni Savage and Kareem Bluntly, in the 3500 block of North Palmetto Street in Philadelphia; and
- ▶ the March 1, 2004 murder of Tybius Flowers, age 32, of K Street, by Kaboni Savage and Steven Northington, in the 3700 block of N. 8th Street in Philadelphia; and

The indictment alleges multiple efforts by Kidada Savage to intimidate and threaten witnesses, including the posting of witness’ personal information on an internet website. The indictment further alleges continuing efforts by Kaboni Savage to threaten and intimidate witnesses, even after his 2009 indictment, the most recent threat having been made on April 21, 2010. In that incident, Kaboni Savage issued a threat to a suspected cooperator, referred to as “D.B.,” in which Kaboni Savage stated, “A smoky sad night will solve all of that.”

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR DATE OF BIRTH
KABONI SAVAGE	In federal custody, formerly of Philadelphia, PA	36
ROBERT MERRITT	In federal custody, formerly of Philadelphia, PA	30
STEVEN NORTHINGTON	In federal custody, formerly of Philadelphia, PA	39
KIDADA SAVAGE	Philadelphia, PA	28

If convicted of all counts, each defendant faces a sentence of death or mandatory life imprisonment.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division, the Philadelphia Police Department, and the Maple Shade, New Jersey Police Department. The United States Bureau of Prisons, the United States Marshals Service, and HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) also assisted in the investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys David E. Troyer and John M. Gallagher.

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