



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, August 8, 2011

**Federal Jury Convicts Two St. Croix Men of First Degree Murder  
and Related Gun Charges**

**St. Croix, USVI** - Following a two-week trial in District Court on St. Croix, a federal jury today found Kalif Flanders and Gillian Harper guilty of aiding and abetting each other in the commission of First Degree Murder, Third Degree Assault, and Unauthorized Possession of a Firearm during a Crime of Violence, announced United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe. Flanders and Harper were also found guilty of Possession of a Firearm Within One Thousand Feet of a School Zone.

Evidence presented at trial established that on May 13, 2010, when police officers responded to the discharging of a shot in the Mount Pleasant Community, they observed an individual later identified as Luis Orlando Encarnacion, lying behind 614 Estate Mount Pleasant, with no apparent vital signs. The evidence also established that on May 13, 2010, at approximately 7:15 a.m., Flanders visited the victim at his home in Mount Pleasant, and lured the victim to a field located behind the Evelyn Williams School, where Flanders and Harper beat and murdered the victim. The victim died less than 300 feet from the school of a single gunshot wound to the head.

Flanders and Harper face a mandatory life sentence on the first-degree murder conviction. No sentencing date has been set.

U.S. Attorney Sharpe commended the Virgin Islands Police Department, which investigated this

case. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Alphonso Andrews and Allan John-Baptiste.