



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **St. Croix Man Sentenced to Life in Prison for Murder**

**St. Thomas, USVI** – Sean Gerard, 32, was sentenced today by visiting District Court Judge Anne E. Thompson to spend the rest of his natural life in prison, the mandatory statutory penalty for first-degree murder, United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe announced.

Gerard also received a 15-year sentence for unauthorized possession of a firearm, and 15 years for the charges of felon in possession of a firearm and receiving a firearm while under indictment. Judge Thompson ordered the prison terms to run concurrently.

On April 15, 2010, a federal jury and judge convicted Gerard of Virgin Islands and federal charges after a three-day trial in district court on St. Croix. The federal jury convicted Gerard of first-degree murder and unauthorized possession of a firearm, and Judge Thompson found Gerard guilty of being a felon in possession of a firearm and receiving a firearm while under indictment.

Evidence presented at trial established that on May 6, 2009, police officers responded to a report that shots were being discharged in the area of No.119 Estate Mon Bijou. When officers arrived at the scene, they observed an individual later identified as Alfred Hendricks lying in the middle of a dirt road east of No. 119 Estate Mon Bijou with no apparent vital signs.

The evidence presented at trial further established that Hendricks and Gerard were involved in a dispute over a bicycle on May 6, 2009, and Gerard shot and killed Hendricks. At the time of the shooting, Gerard was on house arrest on a pending Superior Court charge of first-degree assault.

U.S. Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe commended the joint efforts of the Virgin Islands Police Department and the Virgin Islands National Guard, the two agencies that investigated this case. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Allan John-Baptiste and Alphonso Andrews.