



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Three St. John Residents Indicted on Bank Robbery Charges

St. Thomas, USVI - A federal grand jury has returned a four-count indictment charging three St. John residents with Conspiracy to Interfere with Commerce by Robbery, Bank Robbery and firearm violations. The indictment was returned on January 19, 2012 and was unsealed on Thursday, February 2, 2012, upon the arrest of the defendants.

The indictment was announced by United States Attorney for the District of the Virgin Islands Ronald W. Sharpe; Special Agent in Charge Joseph Campbell of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Commissioner Henry White of the Virgin Islands Police Department.

The indictment charges Shevaun E. Browne, 24, Keven Fassale, 22, and Kadeem Thomas, 22, with conspiracy to interfere with commerce by robbery and aiding and abetting bank robbery. Fassale and Thomas are also charged with carrying and using a firearm during the commission of a crime of violence.

According to the indictment, on January 11, 2011, the Merchants Commercial Bank, a FDIC insured bank, at Chocolate Hole, St. John was robbed by two gunmen who entered the bank carrying three firearms. The employees of the bank were ordered to the floor while the

robbers stole approximately \$47,529 from the teller's cash pans. The robbers fled in a blue Chevy Jimmy belonging to defendant Browne. Video surveillance cameras recorded the robbery as it was taking place and also recorded the robbers as they arrived at the bank and left the bank in the blue Chevy Jimmy.

United States Attorney Sharpe reminds the public that an indictment is merely a formal charging document and is not evidence of guilt. Every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless found guilty.

This case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nelson Jones.