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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jury Convicts St. Croix Man of Carjacking and Related Offenses

St. Croix, USVI – After a four-day trial, a federal jury on Friday convicted Kareem Louis, 21, of carjacking, using and carrying a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence, robbery first degree, unauthorized possession of a firearm during a violent crime, unauthorized possession of a firearm, unauthorized use of a vehicle, possession of stolen property, and assault third degree, announced United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe and Virgin Islands Police Commissioner Henry White.

According to the evidence presented at trial, on August 19, 2011, Kareem and Raheem Louis approached the victim after she had just unloaded a donation at the flea market in the Richmond area. Kareem Louis pointed a long-barreled gun at the victim's head and demanded the keys to her car. Both men then sped off in the 2010 blue Jeep Compass. Evidence presented at trial also established that the men drove the stolen car to their minor siblings' residence and used the vehicle to take their minor siblings to the Catherine's Rest Supermarket on three occasions. On their third trip to the store, police apprehended Kareem Louis as he exited the Jeep Compass. He was ordered to stop and did so briefly before running to the side of the shop. As he was running, police observed him reach into his waist and remove a firearm. A long-barreled handgun was

found behind a dumpster where Kareem Louis tossed it. Raheem Louis sped off in the vehicle and led the police on a high-speed chase. He abandoned the vehicle in the bushes near the Catherine's Rest Road and Southside Road intersection. Raheem Louis was arrested pursuant to a warrant on September 1, 2011 and convicted on December 19, 2011.

Louis faces a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison for carjacking; a mandatory minimum of seven years for using and carrying a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence; a maximum of 20 years for robbery; a mandatory minimum of 15 years for unauthorized possession of a firearm during a crime of violence; a maximum of five years for unauthorized use of a vehicle; a maximum of 10 years for possession of stolen property, and a maximum of five years for assault third degree. The maximum fine facing Louis is \$250,000.00 for carjacking. Louis remains detained pending sentencing. No sentencing date has been set.

U.S. Attorney Sharpe commended the efforts of the Virgin Islands Police Department, which investigated this case. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Rhonda Williams-Henry and Alphonso Andrews.