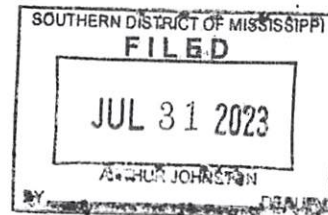


IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI  
NORTHERN DIVISION



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

18 U.S.C. § 242  
18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1)

v.

CRIMINAL NO. **3:23-cr-63-TSL-LGI**

CHRISTIAN LEE DEDMON,  
HUNTER THOMAS ELWARD, and  
DANIEL READY OPDYKE,

**The United States Attorney charges:**

**COUNT 1**  
**Deprivation of Rights Under Color of Law**  
**(18 U.S.C. § 242)**

On or about December 4, 2022, in the Northern Division of the Southern District of Mississippi, defendants, **CHRISTIAN LEE DEDMON, HUNTER THOMAS ELWARD, and DANIEL READY OPDYKE**, while acting under color of law and aiding and abetting one another, willfully deprived A.S. of the right, secured and protected by the Constitution and laws of the United States, to be free from unreasonable seizures, which includes the right be free from the use of unreasonable force by a law enforcement officer. Specifically, **CHRISTIAN LEE DEDMON** physically assaulted A.S. by punching, kicking, and tasing him, and **HUNTER THOMAS ELWARD** and **DANIEL READY OPDYKE** failed to intervene to protect A.S. from being assaulted, despite the opportunity to do so. This offense involved the use of a dangerous weapon and resulted in bodily injury to A.S.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 242 and 2.

**COUNT 2**  
**Deprivation of Rights Under Color of Law**  
**(18 U.S.C. § 242)**

On or about December 4, 2022, in the Northern Division of the Southern District of Mississippi, defendant **CHRISTIAN LEE DEDMON**, while acting under color of law, willfully deprived A.S. of the right, secured and protected by the Constitution and laws of the United States, to be free from unreasonable seizures, which includes the right be free from the use of unreasonable force by a law enforcement officer. Specifically, **DEDMON** discharged a firearm in close proximity to A.S. for the purpose of scaring A.S. and coercing a confession. This offense involved the use of a dangerous weapon.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 242.

**COUNT 3**  
**Discharge of a Firearm During a Crime of Violence**  
**(18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1))**

On December 4, 2022, in the Northern Division of the Southern District of Mississippi, defendant **CHRISTIAN LEE DEDMON**, did knowingly use, carry, brandish, and discharge a firearm, during and in relation to a crime of violence for which the defendant may be prosecuted in a court of the United States; specifically, the crime of violence charged in Count Two of this Information.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(A).

  
DARREN J. LAMARCA  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

KRISTEN CLARKE  
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL  
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



Christopher J. Perras  
Special Litigation Counsel

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI  
NORTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

CRIMINAL NO. **3:23-cr-63-TSL-LGI**

CHRISTIAN LEE DEDMON,  
HUNTER THOMAS ELWARD, and  
DANIEL READY OPDYKE

NOTICE OF MAXIMUM PENALTY

CHRISTIAN LEE DEDMON

**Counts 1 and 2:**                    **Deprivation of Rights Under Color of Law**  
18 U.S.C. §242

- Not more than ten (10) years imprisonment
- Not more than a \$250,000 fine
- Not more than three (3) years supervised release
- \$100 special assessment each count

**Count 3:**                         **Use and Carry and Brandish and Discharge of a Firearm**  
**During a Crime of Violence**  
18 U.S.C. §924(c)(1)

- Not less than ten (10) years imprisonment, not more than Life, to run consecutive
- Not more than a \$250,000 fine
- Not more than five (5) years supervised release
- \$100 special assessment

HUNTER THOMAS ELWARD

**Count 1:**                         **Deprivation of Rights Under Color of Law**  
18 U.S.C. §242

- Not more than ten (10) years imprisonment
- Not more than a \$250,000 fine
- Not more than three (3) years supervised release
- \$100 special assessment each count

DANIEL READY OPDYKE

**Count1:**

**Deprivation of Rights Under Color of Law**  
18 U.S.C. §242

- Not more than ten (10) years imprisonment
- Not more than a \$250,000 fine
- Not more than three (3) years supervised release
- \$100 special assessment each count