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CAREER DRUG TRAFFICKER SENTENCED TO LIFE IN FEDERAL PRISON AT AGE 30

26 year-old co-conspirator also gets 24 years in prison

Lafayette, Louisiana . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that two drug traffickers were sentenced in federal court last week to substantial prison time by United States District Judge Tucker Melançon for conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine and distribution of crack cocaine.

LIONEL J. HENDERSON, JR., age 30, from Amelia, Louisiana, was sentenced to life imprisonment and, if ever released (which is unlikely), to be followed by a term of ten (10) years supervised release.

KEITH ROMAN HENDERSON, age 26, originally from Amelia, Louisiana, but residing in Terrebonne Parish at the time of indictment, was sentenced to 292 months (24.33 years) imprisonment to be followed by ten (10) years supervised release.

The HENDERSON's were indicted in July 2005 following investigations conducted by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the St. Mary Parish Narcotics Task Force, and the Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office under the federal Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force program. The HENDERSON's were tried by a federal jury in April 2006. The five-day trial ended with the jury returning

guilty verdicts after deliberating for seven (7) hours.

The HENDERSON brothers distributed a substantial amount of crack cocaine in the Friendship Alley area of Amelia, Louisiana and neighboring parishes. It is estimated that the HENDERSON's distributed 120 kilograms of crack cocaine in 2005, with a street value of \$3,600,000.00. At the time of the HENDERSONs' arrest in July 2005, \$5,000.00 in U.S. currency was seized, after an undercover purchase of over 100 grams of crack cocaine.

The HENDERSON brothers are no strangers to the legal system. LIONEL HENDERSON has two prior felony drug convictions from Terrebonne Parish and KEITH HENDERSON has one prior felony drug conviction from St. Mary Parish. At the time of his arrest in July 2005, KEITH HENDERSON was still on probation.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Brett L. Grayson.

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