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**EUNICE, LA MAN SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT FOR
ATTEMPTING TO ASSIST INMATES TO COMMIT PERJURY**

*Defendant charged inmates a fee for false information to help them
attempt to testify falsely and obtain sentence reductions*

LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced today that **CHARLES ANDERSON**, age 31, of Eunice, Louisiana, was sentenced in United States District Court for conspiracy to commit wire fraud and mail fraud and committing mail fraud and wire fraud. U. S. District Judge Robert G. James sentenced ANDERSON to spend 21 months in federal prison and a term of three years supervised release following confinement. The court also ordered the defendant to pay \$2,200.00 in restitution.

Co-conspirator, Donald Ray Washington, a/k/a Umar Shakir Muhammad, age 51, of Tallulah, Louisiana, was sentenced in United States District Court in February 2009 for conspiracy to commit wire fraud and mail fraud. U. S. District Judge Robert G. James sentenced Washington to spend eight months in federal prison, to run consecutively with a previous sentence received in federal court for drug charges, to be followed by a term of three years supervised release after confinement, and restitution in the amount of \$2,200.00.

ANDERSON and Washington were indicted in August 2008. Anderson pled guilty in March 2009 to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and mail fraud, one count of mail fraud, and one count of wire fraud. Washington pled guilty in October 2008 to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and mail fraud.

CHARLES ANDERSON also appeared before Judge Robert G. James in relation to a previous conviction in federal court for armed robbery, wherein he violated his supervised release. Judge James revoked his supervised release for the armed robbery conviction and sentenced him to 34 months in prison, to run consecutive with the 21-month sentence, for a total of 55 months in prison. While on supervised release for the armed robbery conviction, ANDERSON committed three additional armed robberies, for which a case is now pending in State District Court in Alexandria, Louisiana.

According to the Indictment, beginning on or about February 2005 and continuing through on or about March 2006, CHARLES ANDERSON, along with Donald Ray Washington, a/k/a Umar Shakir Muhammad, devised and executed a scheme to defraud inmates by claiming they could obtain sentencing reductions for a fee.

ANDERSON, who was incarcerated at the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) in Three Rivers, Texas, from February 2005 to March 2006, conspired with Washington who was in Tallulah, Louisiana, to execute a scheme to defraud inmates and family members by obtaining money and property from those inmates and their family members by means of false representations and promises. In the scheme to defraud the inmates, ANDERSON offered the inmates two options.

Option #1: ANDERSON offered to sell photographs of individuals under indictment or federal investigation for drug trafficking violations to certain inmates. ANDERSON falsely represented to these inmates that they could purchase the photographs to assist in their efforts to convince federal agents and prosecutors to use the inmates as government witnesses in pending investigations and prosecutions, thereby possibly earning a sentence reduction. The photographs that ANDERSON sold to these inmates were actually photographs of friends of ANDERSON or of complete strangers, none of whom were subjects of any federal investigation or prosecution.

Option #2: ANDERSON falsely represented to certain Three River FCI inmates that he had a female friend on the "outside" who was working in an undercover capacity with federal drug investigators. ANDERSON promised these inmates that, for a fee, he would arrange with his friend to assist undercover agents to purchase narcotics that would then be credited to the inmate as substantial assistance to the government, which would enable the inmate to possibly earn a sentence reduction.

ANDERSON had numerous telephone conversations with Washington for the purpose of coordinating and executing the scheme to defraud. These calls were placed by ANDERSON from Three Rivers FCI, Texas, to Washington in Tallulah, Louisiana. In one instance, the defendant and Washington, for the purpose of executing the aforesaid scheme and fraud, caused a check to be delivered by United States Postal Service to a relative of ANDERSON's in Eunice, Louisiana, which was subsequently endorsed by Washington and deposited into his bank account. Washington then forwarded a portion of those funds to ANDERSON's prison account at Three Rivers FCI.

ANDERSON was scheduled to be transferred from Three Rivers FCI in February or March of 2006. In an effort to avoid the discovery of their fraud by victim inmates at Three Rivers FCI until ANDERSON was removed from that prison, ANDERSON and Washington attempted to time the execution of their scheme to culminate in the last weeks before ANDERSON's removal. As a result of this conspiracy and scheme to defraud, the victim inmates and their family members were defrauded of over \$10,000.00.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission are only used as guidelines by the judge in determining the appropriate sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney John Luke Walker.

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