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TWO MEMBERS OF HOME INVASION GANG RECEIVE LONG SENTENCES IN FEDERAL COURT

Defendant BIRTHA sentenced to 102 years imprisonment

LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced today the sentencing of **ANTHONY ANTOINE BIRTHA, a/k/a “Terelle Williams,”** age 45, of Lafayette, Louisiana, and **STERLING HENRY GIVENS, JR., a/k/a “Teddy,”** age 37, of Lafayette, Louisiana, in United States District Court before U.S. District Judge Richard T. Haik.

BIRTHA and GIVENS were members of a violent gang involved in carrying out an elaborate drug trafficking conspiracy that committed home invasions of drug dealers and robbed them at gunpoint in order to obtain drugs, money and firearms. During the course of these conspiracies, many individuals were victimized by being held at gunpoint, assaulted and raped, and at one point, an individual was shot in the forehead. In some instances, babies and teenagers were present.

BIRTHA and GIVENS, along with five other individuals, were indicted in May 2007 and in a Superseding Indictment in September 2007 on drugs and firearms charges.

BIRTHA was convicted by a federal jury on April 9, 2009 on 15 counts of drug conspiracy and firearms charges, to include armed robbery that interfered with interstate commerce. **BIRTHA was sentenced today to 102 years imprisonment and three years supervised release.** BIRTHA's sentence is composed of 20 years for the drug related charges and 82 years for the firearms charges.

GIVENS pled guilty in April 2009 to Count 4 of the Superceding Indictment for attempted interference with commerce by robbery and Count 5 of the Superceding Indictment for possession and carrying of a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence. **GIVENS was sentenced today to 26 and a half years imprisonment and five years supervised release.**

This case was the result of a three-year investigation by the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office, Lafayette Police Department, St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office, Acadia Parish Sheriff's Office, Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office, the FBI Safe Streets Gang Task Force and the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms.

Four co-defendants were previously sentenced:

LOVELESS BELL, a/k/a "Loveless Milson," age 31, of Lafayette, Louisiana, pled guilty in September 2008 to attempted interference with commerce by robbery and possession and carrying of a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence, and was sentenced to seven years imprisonment and a term of three years supervised release following confinement for Count 4 (robbery); seven years imprisonment and a term of five years supervised release following confinement for Count 5 (firearms violation), to run consecutive with Count 4; and twenty-five years imprisonment and a term of five years supervised release following confinement for Count 8 (second firearms violation), to run consecutive with Count 5.

KENDRICK SHANE BOUDREAUX, a/k/a "Fly," age 29, of Lafayette, Louisiana, pled guilty in May 2008 to Count 4 of the Superceding Indictment for Attempted Interference with Commerce by Robbery, and was sentenced in September 2008 to 441 months imprisonment and a term of three years supervised release following confinement.

WILSON PATRICK BREAU, a/k/a "Wilson Milson," age 23, of Lafayette, Louisiana, pled guilty in October 2008 to Counts 14 and 17 of the Superceding Indictment for Possession of Stolen Firearms, and was sentenced in March 2009 to 37 months imprisonment and a term of three years supervised release following confinement.

SHANE ANTHONY JOLLIVETTE, age 26, of Sunset, Louisiana, pled guilty in September 2008 to Count 14 of the Superceding Indictment for Possession of Stolen Firearms, and was sentenced to 65 months imprisonment and a term of three years supervised release following confinement.

One final co-defendant remains to be sentenced:

LEON PAPILLION, JR., a/k/a “Wood,” age 31, of Lafayette, Louisiana was convicted by a federal jury on June 2, 2009 on Count 1 of the Superceding Indictment for Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute Controlled Substances and Count 23 of the Superceding Indictment for Attempted Possession with Intent to Distribute Ecstasy. **Sentencing for Papillion has been scheduled for October 1, 2009.**

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 Lafayette Parish Sheriff’s Office, Lafayette Police Department, St. Landry Parish Sheriff’s Office, Acadia Parish Sheriff’s Office, Calcasieu Parish Sheriff’s Office, the FBI Safe Streets Gang Task Force and the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Brett L. Grayson and J. Collin Sims.

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