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REMAINING MEMBER OF HOME INVASION GANG SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT

Leon Papillion, Jr. was sentenced to over 23 years imprisonment

LAFAYETTE, LA . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington, announced today the sentencing of **LEON PAPIILLION, JR.**, a/k/a “Wood,” age 31, of Lafayette, Louisiana. United States District Judge Richard T. Haik sentenced PAPIILLION to over 23 years imprisonment and six years supervised release following confinement.

LEON PAPIILLION, JR., along with six other individuals, was indicted in May 2007 and in a Superceding Indictment in September 2007. PAPIILLION was convicted by a federal jury on June 2, 2009 on conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances and attempted possession with intent to distribute Ecstasy.

LEON PAPIILLION, JR. was an integral member of a gang 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. Some of the other gang members would also commit aggravated burglaries of non-criminals when the opportunity arose in order to obtain a variety of firearms. During the course of these conspiracies, many individuals were victimized by being held at gunpoint, assaulted and raped, and some were wounded. In some instances, babies and teenagers were present.

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.

Six co-defendants were previously sentenced:

LOVELESS BELL, a/k/a "Loveless Milson," age 31, of Lafayette, Louisiana, pled guilty in September 2008, and was sentenced to seven years imprisonment and a term of three years supervised release following confinement for robbery; seven years imprisonment and a term of five years supervised release following confinement for the firearms violation, which shall run consecutive with the robbery violation; and twenty-five years imprisonment and a term of five years supervised release following confinement for the second firearms violation, which shall run consecutive with the first firearms violation.

SHANE ANTHONY JOLLIVETTE, age 26, of Sunset, Louisiana, pled guilty in September 2008 to possession of stolen firearms, and was sentenced to 65 months imprisonment and a term of three years supervised release following confinement.

KENDRICK SHANE BOUDREAUX, a/k/a as "Fly," age 29, of Lafayette, Louisiana, pled guilty in May 2008 to 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 BREAUX, a/k/a "Wilson Milson," age 23, of Lafayette, Louisiana, pled guilty in October 2008 to possession of stolen firearms, and was sentenced in March 2009 to 37 months imprisonment and a term of three years supervised release following confinement.

STERLING HENRY GIVENS, JR., a/k/a "Teddy," age 37, of Lafayette, Louisiana, pled guilty in April 2009 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 in September 2009 to 26 and a half years imprisonment and five years supervised release following confinement.

ANTHONY BIRTHA, a/k/a "Terelle Williams," age 45, of Lafayette, Louisiana, was convicted by a federal jury on April 9, 2009 on 15 counts of drug conspiracy and firearm charges, to include armed robbery. BIRTHA was sentenced in September 2009 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.

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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