



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Man Convicted of Assault, Robbery Charges In March 2010 Attack on Two Victims

WASHINGTON – Jamontie Collins, 23, has been convicted by a jury of charges stemming from an attack last year on two men who were walking in the area of Gallery Place and Chinatown in Northwest Washington, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

The jury returned its verdicts February 10, 2011 in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Collins, of Washington, D.C., was convicted of assault with a dangerous weapon, robbery and other offenses. The Honorable Judge Ronna L. Beck is to sentence Collins on May 3, 2011. He faces a possible sentence of at least 19 years in prison.

According to the government's evidence, Collins and a number of accomplices robbed the two men about 12:15 a.m. on March 20, 2010. As the victims were walking in the 500 block of H Street NW, in front of a hotel, Collins stood next to a boy, approximately 10 years old. The child asked the victims where they were from and what they had in their pockets. The victims ignored the child and kept walking. The accomplices came up from behind the victims.

From behind, Collins also walked up to the first victim and punched him in back of his head, as Collins's accomplices gathered around. The first victim turned and successfully fought off Collins' assault. As at least three accomplices joined in Collins's attack, the first victim pulled out a knife to defend himself, and stabbed Collins in the leg, injuring him badly.

Collins then yelled to another accomplice "get the gun, get the gun!" That accomplice ran across H Street, quickly returned with a handgun, and shot at the first victim three times, striking him once in the leg as he ran to safety. This scene was captured by the hotel's exterior surveillance video, which was introduced at trial. The second victim, meanwhile, attempted to come to his friend's aid. Collins's accomplices prevented the second victim from doing so, and demanded money from him. As the gunman's shots rang out, the second victim fled and was chased by two of Collins's accomplices around the corner to 5th Street NW. There, the assailants robbed him of his wallet and cell phone, and punched him in the face, fracturing his jaw.

Collins later returned to his home at 1200 North Capitol Street NW, and called for an ambulance, suffering from a stab wound to his leg. Officers suspected him as having taken part in the earlier attack on H Street. He was later arrested. The other suspects have not been caught.

In announcing the conviction, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen commended several officers of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), including Detectives Sabrina White, Rosslyn Rushing, Robbie Saunders and Juanita Eggleston, and Officers Jonathan Driver, David Leaty, Chancham Spears, Michael L. Baker and Rodney Anderson, all of the First District. Finally, U.S. Attorney Machen thanked Litigation Services Technicians Paul J. Howell, William Henderson, Thomas "Ron" Royal, and Jeanie A. Latimore-Brown, U.S. Attorney's Office Paralegal Tameka Garcia, Assistant U.S. Attorney William L. Woodruff, who indicted the case and Assistant U.S. Attorney Edward A. O'Connell who tried the case.

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