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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, January 7, 2011

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District Man Sentenced to 33-Year Prison Term For Shooting Government Witness - Defendant's Brother Was Facing Charges in Earlier Robbery of Victim -

WASHINGTON - Bobby Johnson, 30, has been sentenced to a 33-year prison term on charges stemming from the July 2009 shooting of a man who was a potential witness in a criminal case against Johnson's brother, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced today.

Johnson, of the District, was convicted in August 2010 by a jury in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia of aggravated assault while armed, assault with a dangerous weapon, mayhem while armed, and various firearms offenses. He was sentenced January 6, 2011 by the Honorable Judge Michael L. Rankin. The judge also ordered that Johnson be placed on five years of supervised release upon completion of the prison term.

The government's evidence at trial established that on July 15, 2009, the victim was walking in the vicinity of the 200 block of 37th Place SE when he encountered Bobby Johnson. The victim has known Bobby Johnson for years and recognized him as the brother of Jonathan Johnson, who had attacked him months earlier. In that incident, on December 1, 2008, Jonathan Johnson robbed and assisted in the shooting of the victim near the victim's residence.

At the time that the victim encountered Bobby Johnson, Jonathan Johnson was facing criminal charges for the December 2008 attack. Bobby Johnson produced a handgun and shot at the victim at least 15 times, the government's evidence showed. Four of the bullets struck the victim, causing traumatic injury. Bobby Johnson ran away from the area when he ran out of ammunition.

An officer with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) found the victim, who declared that "Little Bobby" shot him because he was going to testify. Subsequently, the victim was able to identify "Little Bobby" as the defendant.

Jonathan Johnson, 22, pled guilty in April 2010 to charges of robbery and possession of a firearm during a crime of violence for his role in the December 2008 attack on the victim. He is now serving a 10-year prison sentence.

In announcing Bobby Johnson's sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the outstanding work of MPD Detective Peter Shaw. He also praised the work of Assistant U.S. Attorney Reagan Taylor, who investigated and indicted the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Magdalena Acevedo and John Truong, who prosecuted the case at trial.

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