



U.S. Department of Justice

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Maryland Man Sentenced to 23 Years in Prison For Armed Kidnapping and Shooting**

WASHINGTON - Kamau Blakney, 26, of Suitland, Maryland, was sentenced today to 23 years in prison for a shooting and attempted kidnapping that took place in August 2009 in Southeast Washington, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Blakney was convicted in October 2010 by a jury in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia of armed kidnapping, armed carjacking, assault with a dangerous weapon, assault with significant bodily injury, and firearms offenses. He was sentenced by the Honorable Judge Ronna L. Beck, who presided over the trial.

According to evidence presented at trial, on August 1, 2009, Blakney and an unidentified conspirator, both of whom knew the 25-year-old victim, lured the man to the 900 block of Wahler Place SE. After the victim arrived in his vehicle, the second suspect held him at gunpoint while Blakney duct-taped his wrists together. The victim managed to escape, but was pursued by Blakney, who shot him in the back while he fled. The victim managed to find sanctuary in a nearby home, where the residents assisted him and called 911. The second assailant remains at large.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the bravery of the couple who assisted the victim during the dangerous incident. He also expressed his appreciation to the Metropolitan Police Department, and particularly praised the work of Detectives Stacey Carey and Elmer Baylor, who led the police investigation.

U.S. Attorney Machen also commended the work of Intelligence Analyst Lawrence Grasso, Litigation Technology Specialist Leif Hickling, and James Brennan of the Victim Witness Assistance Unit, all of the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the U.S. Marshal Service. Finally, he commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys Todd Gee and Michael Ortwein, who investigated and indicted the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Heather L. Carlton, who prosecuted the case at trial.

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