



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates
Northern District of Georgia

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CONTACT: Patrick Crosby

(404)581-6016

FAX (404)581-6160

PAIR SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR THEFT OF DOZENS OF WEAPONS FROM FIREARMS DEALER

NEWNAN, GA - KISSAN LYNCH, 25, of Jonesboro, Georgia, was sentenced today by United States District Judge J. Owen Forrester on charges related to the theft of over 80 firearms stolen from a federally licensed firearms dealer in Fayetteville, Georgia. LYNCH is the 12th of 13 defendants to be sentenced in the case.

United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates said of the case, "Our communities are still being flooded with stolen and illegally purchased weapons, and they often end up in the middle of violent crimes, not only here but in other parts of the country. Just one stolen weapon can account for multiple crimes. With this case involving 80 firearms and 13 defendants, the potential criminal damage was staggering. These criminals quickly enabled others to be armed criminals. The prison sentences reflect the need to take these defendants off the streets, and the guns they brought with them."

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Special Agent in Charge, Gregory K. Gant said of the investigation and prosecution, "Once again, the combined efforts of our agents and the United States Attorney's Office have successfully brought closure to a crime that fuels the cycle of violence that tears at the fabric of our community. The focus now is to continue to recover these firearms and remove the threat of their use by criminals to victimize our fellow citizens."

KISSAN LYNCH was sentenced to 17 years 6 months in federal prison, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release. LYNCH pleaded guilty to conspiracy to steal firearms from a federally licensed firearms dealer, conspiracy to receive, possess, conceal, store, and dispose of the stolen firearms; and possession of firearms by a convicted felon.

According to United States Attorney Yates, the charges and other information presented in court: On December 5, 2007, at approximately 4:04 a.m., the monitored alarm system at "Autrey's Armory," 116 Bethea Road, Fayetteville, Georgia, indicated a break-in. The surveillance video revealed that at least six masked individuals entered the store. The individuals immediately proceeded to several gun counters, smashed the glass cases and removed a large number of firearms. According to the evidence, all of the

firearms were taken to an apartment and divided among seven of the co-defendants. The firearms were then sold to other individuals. Autrey's Armory determined that over 80 firearms were stolen by the burglars. An extensive ATF investigation resulted in the arrest of individuals involved in the break-in and distribution of the weapons. The final defendant charged in the case, EARNEST ELLISON, 41, of Decatur, Georgia, awaits trial on related weapons theft charges.

The rest of the defendants indicted by a federal grand jury in this case have now been convicted and sentenced. The following co-defendants were previously sentenced as follows:

- ANTHONY ALSTON, 24, of Riverdale, Georgia, was sentenced to 4 years, 3 months in federal prison;
- FREDERICK ANDERSON, 20, of College Park, Georgia, was sentenced to 1 year, 4 months in federal prison;
- MATTHIUS CARR, 25, of Stone Mountain, Georgia, was sentenced to 2 years in federal prison;
- ROY DANIELY, 22, of Jonesboro, Georgia, was sentenced to 5 months in federal prison;
- TERRY DAVIS, 24, of Shreveport, Louisiana, was sentenced to 2 years in federal prison;
- CORNELIUS HEARD, 22, of Riverdale, Georgia, was sentenced to 2 years, 10 months in federal prison;
- MELVIN JOHNSON, 23, of Hampton, Georgia, was sentenced to 9 years, 7 months in federal prison;
- BRANDON MCCLURE, 22, of Jonesboro, Georgia, was sentenced to 10 years, 5 months in federal prison;
- DEMARIO SMITH, 21, of Atlanta, Georgia, was sentenced to 2 years, 9 months in federal prison; and
- ROLAND WILLIAMS, 21, of Riverdale, Georgia, was sentenced to 2 years, 6 months in federal prison.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

Assistant United States Attorney Angela Marie Jordan prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact Sally Q. Yates, United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.justice.gov/usao/gan.