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**NINE MEMBERS OF INTERSTATE GANG OPERATING IN NEW YORK,
OHIO, AND PENNSYLVANIA CHARGED**

LEV L. DASSIN, the Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, JOSEPH M. DEMAREST, JR., the Assistant Director-in-Charge of the New York Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), and JANET DIFIORE, the District Attorney of Westchester County, announced today the unsealing of an Indictment charging ARTEM CHERNE, YEVGENY DYNKIN, ANDREW BURBAN, ANTHONY KALIKA, ANTON HUSYEV, LEONID VODVOZOV, ALEH MASALAKOV, ROBERT WOJICKI, and ROMAN LIKHADZIYEVSKI with offenses stemming from their membership in a criminal group involved in retail store burglaries, extortion, firearms offenses, marijuana trafficking, credit card fraud, identity theft, and other crimes. As set forth in an Indictment unsealed today in Manhattan federal court:

CHERNE, DYNKIN, VODVOZOV, MASALAKOV, WOJICKI, and LIKHADZIYEVSKI are charged with conspiracy to possess and transport in interstate commerce stolen property relating to a series of commercial burglaries during January through April 2009 in New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. CHERNE and DYNKIN, as well as BURBAN, KALIKA, and HUSYEV, are also charged with conspiracy to extort, attempted extortion, and use of a firearm during a crime of violence, stemming from the kidnapping of a marijuana dealer in November 2008 and attempt to extort marijuana and money from him, at one point taking him to a beach on Staten Island,

forcing him to his knees threatening to kill him, and firing a shot into the air.

CHERNE, DYNKIN, VODVOZOV, MASALAKOV, WOJICKI and LIKHADZIYEVSKI face a maximum sentence of five years in prison on the charge of conspiracy to possess and transport in interstate commerce stolen property. CHERNE, DYNKIN, BURBAN, KALIKA and HUSYEV face a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison on both the extortion conspiracy and the attempted extortion counts, and a maximum sentence of life imprisonment on the firearms offense.

ANDREW BURBAN, 21, and ANTHONY KALIKA, 19, both of Staten Island, New York; and LEONID VODVOZOV, 21, ALEH MASALAKOV, 19, ROBERT WOJICKI, 20, and ROMAN LIKHADZIYEVSKI, 18, all of Brooklyn, New York, were arrested earlier today and are expected to be presented in Magistrate Court later today. ARTEM CHERNE, 20, YEVGENY DYNKIN, 21, and ANTON HUSYEV, 21, all of Brooklyn, New York, are currently in custody on separate charges. This case has been assigned to United States District Judge RICHARD J. SULLIVAN.

Mr. DASSIN praised the cooperative work of the many agencies involved in this investigation, specifically the FBI; the Westchester County District Attorney's Office; the Richmond County District Attorney's Office; the New York State Police; the New York Police Department; the Nassau County Police Department; the Suffolk County Police Department; the Westchester County Intelligence Center; the Waterfront Commission of New York Harbor; the Port Authority Police Department; the Pennsylvania State Police; the Greenburgh, New York Police Department; the Copley, Ohio Police Department; and the Fredericksburg, Virginia Police Department. Mr. DASSIN said that the investigation is continuing.

Assistant United States Attorneys ELIE HONIG and PETER SKINNER are in charge of the prosecution.

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