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**PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE ANNOUNCES RACKETEERING
CHARGES AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE 793 BLOODS**

TRENTON – Mercer County Prosecutor Joseph L. Bocchini Jr. announced today the unsealing of a racketeering indictment that pulls together years of criminal activity by members and associates of the 793 set of the Bloods street gang in Trenton, New Jersey.

The 93-count indictment charging 20 individuals was filed in Mercer County Superior Court on April 11, 2014, and sealed pending arrest efforts. It is the result of a joint investigation conducted by the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

In 2011, an ATF investigation into firearms trafficking by members of the 793 Bloods was underway while, contemporaneously, the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office Special Investigations Unit was conducting a separate investigation regarding the same gang. It was determined that the most effective manner of addressing the gang and its illegal activity was through the use of the racketeering laws. The resulting investigation, dubbed Operation Checkmate, revealed that Earl Burnett, the leader of the 793 Bloods gang in Trenton, and two branches of the set operating in Mercer County, had been conspiring together to commit crimes in order to gain money and power for the enterprise.

Through further investigation and an analysis of outstanding cases involving these individuals, the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office determined that from October 2008 to April 2013, this group committed crimes including attempted murder, conspiracy to commit murder, aggravated assault, eluding, witness tampering, burglary, robbery, distribution of controlled dangerous substances, firearms possession and unlawful transport of firearms, all in support of or in association with the 793 Bloods gang.

“This was a massive, complex investigative and legal undertaking,” Prosecutor Bocchini said. “It is very much a historical racketeering case, pulling together years of criminal activity by these gang members and associates.”

The prosecutor stated that many of the crimes charged in the indictment are currently part of outstanding indictments. Those indictments will be superseded by the racketeering indictment. “The racketeering charge allows prosecutors to paint a full picture of the gang’s criminal activity to a jury instead of presenting the crimes in a piecemeal fashion,” Prosecutor Bocchini explained.

The defendants are charged in the indictment, in part, as follows:

RASHEE BARLOW, a/k/a “Shells”

- Racketeering
- Gang Criminality

SHABAZZ BOYD, a/k/a “Bazz”

- Racketeering
- Gang Criminality
- Attempted Murder
- Robbery
- Conspiracy
- Weapons Offenses

GEORGE BRISCOE, a/k/a “.380”

- Racketeering
- Gang Criminality
- Narcotic and Weapons Offenses
- Robbery
- Aggravated Assault

ANTHONY BURKHALTER, a/k/a “Twin,” a/k/a “A.B.”

- Racketeering
- Gang Criminality
- Conspiracy
- Multiple Aggravated Sexual Assaults
- Robbery
- Weapons Offenses

CIERRA BURNETT

- Conspiracy

EARL BURNETT, a/k/a “Oz”

- Racketeering
- Gang Criminality
- Promoting Organized Street Crime

- Conspiracy
- Narcotic and Weapons Offenses
- Witness Tampering

ERROLL BURNETT, a/k/a “E.B.”

- Racketeering
- Gang Criminality
- Conspiracy

NAIRE BURNETT, a/k/a “Tiger”

- Racketeering
- Gang Criminality

KHALIF CHAPMAN, a/k/a “Ky-Boogie”

- Racketeering
- Gang Criminality
- Conspiracy
- Weapons Offenses
- Burglary

WILLIE DAY JR.

- Gang Criminality
- Conspiracy
- Narcotic Offenses

JOEL FLOWERS, a/k/a “Rock”

- Racketeering
- Gang Criminality
- Conspiracy
- Attempted Murder
- Burglary
- Weapons Offenses

TARLUE GAYE, a/k/a “Crack”

- Racketeering
- Gang Criminality
- Robbery
- Conspiracy
- Weapons Offenses
- Tampering with a Witness

DORIS JACKSON, a/k/a “Duchess,” a/k/a “G”

- Racketeering
- Gang Criminality
- Promoting Organized Street Crime

ELOVENS JOSEPH, a/k/a “Vince”

- Racketeering
- Gang Criminality

HECTOR MALDONADO, a/k/a “Hec”

- Racketeering
- Gang Criminality
- Promoting Organized Street Crime
- Attempted Murder
- Conspiracy
- Robbery

RYAN PAGE, a/k/a “Bubb”

- Racketeering
- Gang Criminality
- Conspiracy
- Narcotic and Weapons Offenses

BIANCA ROSA

- Racketeering
- Gang Criminality
- Conspiracy
- Weapons Offenses

JAMAAL TYUS, a/k/a “Hawk”

- Racketeering
- Gang Criminality
- Robbery
- Weapons Offenses
- Aggravated Assault

KENNETH WILLIAMS, a/k/a “K”

- Racketeering
- Gang Criminality
- Robbery
- Conspiracy
- Weapons Offenses

MELISSA WINSLOW

- Robbery

Racketeering, N.J.S. 2C:41-2, is a first-degree offense and carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison subject to the No Early Release Act. The racketeering sentence must be served consecutive to convictions on the underlying offenses.

Gang criminality, N.J.S. 2C:33-29, is also a first-degree offense and carries a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison. This sentence must also be served consecutive to convictions on the underlying offenses.

The majority of the defendants charged in the indictment were already in custody for underlying offenses. Erroll Burnett, Chapman, Day, Jackson, Joseph and Rosa were arrested across the state during the last week. Page and Cierra Burnett remain at large.

The indictment is the result of a three-year investigation lead by Detective Eric Hastings of the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office Special Investigations Unit, with assistance from Detective Pablo Santiago of the Mercer County Sheriff's Office, assigned to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives as a task force officer, and Special Agent Lou Detitto of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecutors Stephanie Katz and John Boyle of the Mercer County Prosecutor's Special Investigations Unit.

An indictment is merely an accusation. All persons charged are presumed innocent until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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