

VIOLENT CRIME

The prosecution efforts to reduce violent crime are based on three strategies:

- ❑ Expand prosecution of firearms offenses through referral agreements among federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and State prosecutors.
- ❑ Support comprehensive, multi-agency strategies to identify, penetrate and dismantle organized criminal enterprises, including prison gangs engaged in illegal activity.
- ❑ Expand prosecutions to remove illegal immigrants involved in violent gangs and criminal activities.

The following cases are representative violent crime prosecutions during the past year. These cases have resulted in long, no-parole prison terms for violent criminals and those who use the Internet to exploit children.

CAB-JACKING ON THE BORDER

Two cousins, Luis Palomo and Israel Magana, pretended to be drunk when they hailed a cab at the border between Reynosa, Mexico and Hidalgo, Texas. They told the driver to take them to Mission, Texas. When they got to a rural area near Mission the two passengers attacked the driver and took his money, cell phone and the taxi itself. The pair used the cab driver's cell phone to call friends and brag about their adventure. Through the FBI Safe Streets Task Force, investigators of the Mercedes Police Department and the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office worked with FBI Special Agents to identify and locate the two by tracing the calls they made. Magana pled guilty and was sentenced to 46 months. Palomo demanded a trial, was convicted and sentenced to 8 years. AUSA: Luis Martinez. AGENCY: FBI.

71 YEARS - NO PAROLE FOR SHOOTING SECURITY OFFICER DURING BANK ROBBERY



John Anthony Taylor robbed two Houston-area banks and shot Wilber White, a security officer, in the head during one of the robberies.

A federal jury found Taylor guilty, and U.S. District Judge Lynn Hughes sentenced him to 852 months in federal prison, from which there is no parole. AUSA: Don Calvert; AGENCY: FBI, HPD & Harris Co. Sheriff's Office.



PRO SE THREATS

Michael Jackson, a TDC inmate serving time on habitual burglary and assault convictions, was charged with mailing threatening letters to a federal judge and a district clerk. Jackson had filed three civil suits in Dallas-based U.S. District Judge Mary Robinson’s court complaining of mistreatment while in state prison. Judge Robinson dismissed all three of Jackson’s civil suits as frivolous. Jackson sent hand-written letters to the Judge and U.S. District Clerk Nancy Doherty threatening kidnapping, specific sexual assaults, and life threatening bodily injuries when he gets out of jail. Jackson was convicted, and will spend time in federal penitentiary after completing his TDC sentence. AUSA: Mike Schultz; AGENCY: FBI.

“JUST-A-JOKE” DEFENSE FAILS

Eighteen-year-old Eduardo Morales was skipping school and surfing the Internet. Morales, at a home in Houston, logged onto the Latino Teen chat room. In corresponding with a Seattle-area woman, he sent her a message that said he was going to kill the teachers and students at Milby High School in Houston. The woman became concerned and contacted her local police. Houston law enforcement was alerted and Morales was arrested and charged with making threats over the Internet. A jury did not believe Morales’ claim that the threat was a joke. Morales was sentenced to two years probation and 200 hours of community service. AUSA: Andrew Bobb; HPD & HISD Police.

KIDNAP CHARGES FILED AGAINST HOUSTON MAN



Seven year-old Natali did not return home after a trip on her bike to a nearby bakery in East Houston. Her sister remembered she saw a man following her. A week after she was lost, FBI agents found her at a church in Miami thanks to a tip from a Houston bus company. Natali’s neighbor, 24-year-old Mexican national, Rodolfo Torres-Herrera, was returned to Houston where he stood trial and was convicted of the kidnapping. He faces a possible life sentence and fines up to \$250,000. AUSA: Don Calvert; AGENCY: FBI & INS.

IMMIGRATION CRIMES

As a key component of the Attorney General’s Southwest Border Initiative, there has been a commitment to increase the staffing of agencies on the border. For the last five years, the combined presence of Border Patrol and the Immigration and Naturalization Service has more than doubled in the district. This increased staffing has had a direct impact on reducing crime rates in the area. The vastly increased law enforcement presence has also tremendously increased the workload of the prosecutors in the border offices.

The number of immigration defendants prosecuted in the district has increased by over 400% in the last 5 years. This year the district expects to prosecute more than 2000 defendants for felony immigration violations.

The district has focused its immigration prosecution efforts on cases involving only felony immigration violations. In spite of that, the district ranks third nationally in total number of immigration defendants prosecuted. This explosion in prosecutions has strained staff resources of the district, especially in the branch offices. For example, last year criminal prosecutors in Laredo indicted more than 200 felony cases each. This is the highest caseload per Assistant U.S. Attorney in any division in the country.

**REPEAT OFFENDER TO SPEND
FEDERAL TIME BEFORE DEPORTATION**

Oscar Hernan-Arroyo, a 23-year-old Mexican citizen had been deported from the U.S. on two occasions, once following a felony conviction for possession of cocaine and a second time after being convicted for selling counterfeit alien registration cards and social security cards to HPD officers. Hernan was back in the U.S. when he was arrested again as he attempted to sell counterfeit alien registration cards and social security cards to an undercover INS agent. Hernan pled guilty to trafficking in counterfeit U.S. documents and illegally entering the U.S. He was sentenced to six and one-half years. AUSA: Judi Lombardino; AGENCY: INS.

REENTRY-AFTER-DEPORTATION

Defendants prosecuted for illegal reentry are convicted felons with histories of violent crime, drugs, weapon possession or numerous reentries into the U.S. The following are representative cases:

Enrique Mendoza-Gil, 29, a citizen of Mexico, sentenced to 96 months. The defendant has prior convictions for cocaine and marijuana trafficking, theft, and a firearms offense.

Juan Carlos Reyes-Pedraza, 25, a citizen of Mexico, sentenced to 77 months. The defendant has prior convictions for assault, grand larceny, resisting and evading arrest, theft, possession of crack cocaine, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, and failure to identify as a fugitive from justice.

Martin Fraga-Araigo, 43, a citizen of Mexico, sentenced to 71 months, with six prior DWI convictions and one conviction for possession of cocaine.

Juan Villasana-Galnares, 49, a citizen of Mexico, sentenced to 46 months, with prior convictions for attempted rape, aggravated sexual assault of a child, discharge of a firearm, disorderly conduct and criminal mischief.

Marco Tulio Cavieles-Godoy, a citizen of Honduras, sentenced to 85 months, with prior convictions for theft, indecency with a child, burglary of a habitation, drug possession and escape.

AUSA: Doug Davis; AGENCY: INS.

EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

The district has one of the most effective programs in the nation to combat child exploitation. Major Crimes prosecutors work in close cooperation with the FBI, U. S. Customs Service, Postal Inspectors and local law enforcement to disrupt distribution of child pornography and the exploitation of children, especially over the Internet.

In 2000, the district led the nation in cases filed against persons who use the Internet to lure children for sex. The district was second in child pornography cases.

THIRTY YEARS FOR INVETERATE PEDOPHILE

A routine traffic stop by officers of the Texas A&M Police Department led authorities to Jonathon Tampico, a fugitive wanted on a 1998 California indictment. Tampico, 50, had a long history of sexual abuse of children. Tampico's flight to avoid prosecution in California had been featured on the Americas Most Wanted television show days before his capture in College Station. His arrest and the subsequent search of his residence by the FBI and College Station Police Department led to the discovery of thousands of child pornography photographs. All the pictures were of prepubescent boys, as young as age 3 or 4 up to age 14, engaged in a variety of explicit sex acts with other children or adult men. He also had numerous photos of young boys in sadistic scenes of bondage engaged in explicit sex acts with older men, numerous typed manuscripts of stories of young boys in sexual bondage

to adult men, and audio tapes of young boys engaged in sex acts. Tampico was convicted after trial and was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Vanessa Gilmore to 360 months in federal prison. AUSA: Mike Schultz; AGENCY: FBI, College Station Police Dept. & Fremont California Police Dept.

POLICE SPOIL PARTY PLANS

Charles Grady Taylor, a prominent 47-year-old businessman from Biloxi, used the Internet to engage in on-line conversations with an individual he thought was a 13-year-old girl living in Houston. He made plans to travel to Houston to meet the girl at a parking lot of a grocery store near her middle school. Taylor traveled from Mississippi for the Houston rendezvous with a box of lingerie. He was met at the parking lot by adult law enforcement authorities who arrested him for traveling in interstate commerce for the purpose of engaging in a sexual act with a minor. Taylor is now serving an 18-month prison term. AUSA : Charles Escher; AGENCY: FBI & HPD.

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY ON FIRE MARSHAL'S COMPUTER

A computer technician working on the Webster Texas Fire Department computers found child pornography being stored in a fire marshal's computer. An investigation confirmed the technician's suspicions, and Fire Marshal Wesley Slanina was arrested and convicted of possession of child pornography. Slanina was sentenced to 33 months and a \$2000 fine. AUSA: Daniel Rodriguez; AGENCY: FBI.

TEXAS ★ EXILE
GUN CRIME MEANS HARD TIME
NO PROBATION. NO PAROLE.

The U. S. Attorney's Office has a partnership with the Texas Attorney General and the Governor's Criminal Justice Division to enhance the prosecution of armed criminals and reduce gun violence under the Texas Exile initiative.

In 2000, two Special Assistant U. S. Attorneys were assigned to the district through an agreement with the State. The special prosecutors work with prosecutors of the Major Crimes Section to apply federal laws that remove armed criminals from our communities. Over the last three years the number of firearms prosecutions in the district has increased by more than 300 percent. In fiscal year 2000, the district's 197 indictments for firearms offenses ranked third in the nation in number of firearms prosecutions. The cases highlighted here are a small sample of the district's efforts to apply federal law to reduce gun violence.



GUN CRIME MEANS FEDERAL TIME FOR STATE PAROLEE

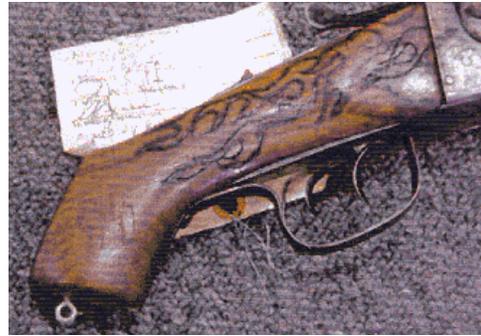
Ramcey Theophus Hamp is 20, and has been convicted in State court for three separate drug felonies. His fourth State felony conviction was in September 1999 on a firearms charge. Hamp was sentenced in Harris County to serve two years in prison. He was paroled in February 2000 after serving five months. Hamp was on parole when uniformed HPD officers recognized him on a Houston street and tried to approach him. Hamp bolted, and the officers watched as he tossed an object between two parked cars while running. It turned out to be a loaded 9 mm. pistol. The officers caught up with Hamp and found him busy chewing. That turned out to be 2.1 grams of crack cocaine. Hamp admitted that he had the pistol for protection while dealing drugs, and also knew the gun was stolen, probably in a burglary.

Hamp was charged in federal court under the Texas Exile program, and will serve nearly all of his 9-year sentence in a federal penitentiary from which there is no parole. AUSA: Ashley Chapman; AGENCY: ATF & HPD.

SECOND TIME AROUND MEANS MANDATORY 25, PLUS ...

Harris Co. Constable's Office Precinct 4 deputies saw the Dodge Durango weaving so they pulled it over. The driver was clearly intoxicated. He drove up on a curb in front of the deputies. The deputies discovered over 36 grams of individually packed, powder cocaine and a semi-automatic weapon with a loaded 30-round magazine in the SUV. Christopher Almaraz was arrested on federal drug and gun possession charges. Almaraz had a prior federal conviction for a firearms violation and served 5 years for that offense.

Alvarez went to trial in December 2000, and a federal jury found him guilty. As a two-time firearm offender, he faces mandatory imprisonment for 25 years for possessing a firearm in the course of a narcotics offense, in addition to the sentence he receives on the charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Sentencing is set for February before U.S. District Judge Kenneth Hoyt. AUSA: Ashley Chapman; AGENCY: ATF & Harris Co. Constable's Office.



When Lee was arrested on a North Carolina burglary warrant, ATF agents were able to connect him with the rifle with the stock designs that matched Lee's tattoos. A jury found Lee guilty of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Judge Lee Rosenthal sentenced him to ten years. AUSA: Jay Hileman; AGENCY: ATF.

ARYAN TATOOS CONNECT CONVICTED BURGLAR TO GUN AND 10 YEAR SENTENCE

Rickey Wayne Lee is a tattoo artist who did his own tattoos on his arms, and



engraved the same white supremacist markings on the stock of his rifle. He was also a convicted felon with two burglary convictions

and a credit card offense.

PAROLE VIOLATOR GETS 17 YEARS

Corpus Christi police went to a house looking for George Cano who was in violation of his State parole. When the police drove in, Cano drove off. Officers chased him to the home of his estranged wife where he drove through a chain link fence and got out of his car with a gun at his head. He forced his way into the home where he held his pregnant wife and their children hostage for eight hours before a SWAT team persuaded him to unload the gun and surrender peacefully. Cano was charged in federal court as a felon in possession of a firearm. He was convicted and sentenced to over 17 years. AUSA: Elsa Salinas; AGENCY: ATF & Corpus Christi PD.

Lee tattooed the same white supremacist markings on his arms and his rifle.

