



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FELON INDICTED FOR SOLICITING MURDER OF FEDERAL WITNESS

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA – Douglas Eugene (“Gene”) Martin, age 53, of Jemison, Alabama, has been indicted by a federal grand jury on a charge of soliciting the murder of a witness in a federal case, U.S. Attorney Leura G. Canary of the Middle District of Alabama, announced today. The indictment is a superseding indictment which alleges that between March 21, 2008, and April 28, 2008, in Montgomery County, Martin solicited, commanded, induced, and endeavored to persuade two people to kill a third person in order to prevent the person from testifying in a federal proceeding. Soliciting someone to commit a federal crime of violence, such as killing a federal witness, is a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 373, and carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in federal prison if convicted.

The solicitation charge was added to a pending federal indictment. At the time of the new offense, Martin had already been indicted on March 14, 2008, on two counts of being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition. Martin was previously convicted in 1995 of being a felon in possession of a firearm. The March 14 charges alleged that Martin possessed three firearms on June 16, 2007, and ammunition on October 13, 2007, all in violation of federal law. The charges of being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition carry a maximum

Members of the public are reminded that the indictment contains only charges. A defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

sentence of up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Martin has been detained in federal custody without bond since March 21, 2008. Martin was arraigned on the new charge on July 9, 2008, in the United States District Court in Montgomery, Alabama, and pleaded not guilty. Trial has not yet been set.

The case was investigated as part of the Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhoods and Middle District of Alabama's Alabama ICE programs. These initiatives are aimed at preventing violent crime and the illegal possession of firearms.

According to United States Attorney Leura G. Canary, "This office is committed to prosecuting repeat offenders like Martin who continue to possess firearms in violation of federal law. We are also committed to doing all in our power to protect federal witnesses. In order for the criminal justice system to work, witnesses must be able to come forward and testify without fear of bodily injury or death."

The charges against Martin have been investigated through the joint efforts of the Chilton County Sheriff's Office, the Jemison Police Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Matthew Shepherd and Nathan Stump.

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