



ATF News

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ATF STING IN LOUISVILLE PUTS TWO NEW YORK GUN TRAFFICKERS BEHIND BARS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — David L. Huber, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, and Special Agent in Charge Paul Vido of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' Louisville Field Division, announced today that a federal grand jury in Louisville returned an indictment against Tariq Kabir, 23, of 166 Dahill Road, Brooklyn, N.Y., and Abunaser Khaled, 19, of 145 Chester Ave., also of Brooklyn, charging them with knowingly possessing and transferring nine unregistered silencers. Kabir was also charged with using, carrying and brandishing a firearm during a crime of violence.

Agents from the Louisville Field Office conducted a three-month-long undercover investigation into this duo's criminal activities. During the course of this investigation, agents conducted undercover operations which culminated in a deal where an ATF agent traded 15 handguns for nine silencers which he received from Kabir and Khaled. Kabir also was in possession of a semiautomatic pistol. Immediately after this trade was completed, Kabir and Khaled were arrested at the scene and all the weapons were recovered. Agents also traveled to Brooklyn, N.Y., and conducted a search of Kabir's apartment, which resulted in the recovery of two additional silencers and additional incriminating evidence. Federal law classifies silencers as "firearms" which must be registered in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record.

"Undercover investigations like this one are critical to stopping illegal firearms traffickers" Vido said. "Obviously, these guys traveled to Kentucky for one reason and one reason only – to obtain weapons and take them back to New York."

The indictment alleges that between May 24 and June 14, Kabir transferred a silencer to another person in violation of federal law. The indictment further alleges that on July 25, Kabir and Khaled had in their possession nine silencers which they later transferred to another person (an undercover agent), which is in violation of federal law. In addition, the indictment alleges that the transfer of the nine silencers was a "crime of violence" under federal law, and that Kabir used, carried and brandished a Glock model 19, 9mm semiautomatic pistol during and in relation to the crime of violence.

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If convicted, just for the possession of the silencers, Kabir and Khaled are facing a maximum potential penalty of 40 years in prison. In addition, if convicted for the offense of using, carrying and brandishing a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence, Kabir will be facing a minimum mandatory sentence of 7 years in federal prison and a possible maximum sentence of life imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas W. Dyke. ATF's Louisville Field Office conducted the investigation as part of ATF's mission to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

Both defendants are currently in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service and are scheduled to appear for arraignment before the U.S. Magistrate Judge on Aug. 28 in Louisville.

More information on ATF and its programs is a www.atf.gov.

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