

# News Release

**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Northern District of Ohio*

**For Release:**  
October 1, 2008

William J. Edwards  
United States Attorney

Bill Mason  
Cuyahoga County Prosecutor

David A. Sierleja  
First Assistant U. S. Attorney

Robert F. Corts  
Michael L. Collyer  
Assistant U.S. Attorneys

Pinkey Carr  
Assistant Cuyahoga County Prosecutor

William J. Edwards, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, Bill Mason, Cuyahoga County Prosecuting Attorney, Christopher Sadowski, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Michael McGrath, Chief of Cleveland Division of Police, and Paul Stubbs, Chief of Cleveland Division of Fire, announced today that a federal grand jury in Cleveland has returned a one count indictment charging Antun Lewis, 24, of Cleveland, Ohio, with a federal offense in connection with the arson deaths of nine people on May 21, 2005, at 1220 E. 87th Street, Cleveland, Ohio. The indictment charges Lewis with arson resulting in death.

The indictment also includes Special Findings in accordance with federal statutes. The crime charged in the indictment may be punishable by life imprisonment or the death penalty. The decision whether to seek the death penalty in any federal case is made by the Attorney General of the United States. If the Attorney General determines that the United States

Attorney's Office should seek the death penalty, the United States, upon conviction for a death penalty eligible offense, must prove one or more of the Special Findings before the death penalty may be imposed.

The case is being prosecuted by First Assistant United States Attorney David A. Sierleja, Assistant United States Attorneys Robert F. Cortis and Michael L. Collyer, and Assistant Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Pinkey Carr (who will be cross-designated as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney) following an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Cleveland Division of Police and the Cleveland Division of Fire.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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