



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of Vermont*

*United States Courthouse and Federal Building
Post Office Box 570
Burlington, Vermont 05402-0570*

*(802) 951-6725
Fax: (802) 951-6540*

PRESS RELEASE

BURLINGTON, VERMONT October 30, 2008

UK CITIZEN SENTENCED FOR ATTEMPTING TO BUY HANDGUN

The United States Attorney's Office announced today that Stephen Jackley, 22, a citizen of the United Kingdom, has been sentenced to 10 months in prison, two years of supervised release and a \$2,000 fine for lying about his nationality and attempting to use false identification to purchase a handgun. The sentence was imposed in United States District Court in Rutland by the Honorable J. Garvan Murtha.

On May 19, 2008, Stephen Jackley was arrested on Route 100 in Vermont after fleeing Henry Parro's gun shop in Waterbury. Court documents show that Jackley entered the gun shop and asked for a compact model Glock handgun. He filled out the federally required form and falsely claimed that he was a United States citizen and that he currently lived in Vermont. When asked for a means of identification, Jackley produced a Vermont non-driver's ID. The store owner found it suspicious and asked if it was real. While Jackley insisted it was, the owner called the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles and found it was a forgery. Jackley then fled the store. In the process, his rental car collided with a vehicle parked at the store. The Vermont State Police soon thereafter arrested Jackley heading north on Route 100.

Court documents show that Jackley, a resident of Worcester, England, had flown to Boston on May 13, 2008 and then traveled to Vermont. Documents found in his vehicle show that he planned to purchase a gun and suggested that he was planning to use it to commit armed robberies, including bank robberies in England. The documents also show that Jackley is facing charges in the Netherlands for armed robbery with a knife but that those charges have not been resolved.

Jackley was indicted by the federal grand jury for Vermont in May, 2008 on charges of lying and trying to use false identification to induce a federally licensed firearms dealer to sell a handgun to a person not permitted to make such a purchase. Under Federal law, an alien is prohibited from purchasing a firearm except in limited circumstances. Jackley pleaded guilty to this offense before Judge Murtha on June 18, 2008.

U.S. Attorney Thomas D. Anderson noted that this matter was investigated and prosecuted as part of the U.S. Attorney and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Project Safe Vermont and the U.S. Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiatives. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide commitment to reduce gun crime in America, marshaling federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who violate federal gun laws. For more information about Project Safe Neighborhoods and Project Safe Vermont, please visit: www.psn.gov and www.usdoj.gov/usao/vt.

The investigation was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney James Gelber. Jackley was represented by Richard Bothfeld, Esq. of Burlington.