
U.S. Department of Justice



United States Attorney's Office Eastern District of Virginia

Chuck Rosenberg - United States Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 27, 2006

Contact: James Rybicki
Phone: (703) 842-4050
E-mail: usavae.press@usdoj.gov
Website: www.usdoj.gov/usao/vae

Robbers Net Time--Not Money

(Newport News, VA) - Ulyses Baker Jr, age 41, of Atlanta, Georgia was sentenced today by United States District Court Judge Jerome B. Friedman to serve 336 months imprisonment for conspiring to obstruct commerce by robbery; conspiracy to launder money; and conspiracy to transport and receive stolen property. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, also announced that Baker was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$6,246,067.14. to Zales Jewelry Stores; Veri-Claim; Sterling/Kay Jewelers; Friedmans Jewelers and Pawn Mart Inc.

From July 31, 2001 through May 14, 2003, Ulyses Baker, together with Crustantion McRae, Terrell Brewer, Tauheed Shakir, Troy Anthony Sherrell, Bryan Kelly and Seneca Jovon Colbert, robbed a total of 15 jewelry stores in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, and Tennessee. Baker provided the travel money and sent funds by wire transfers to McRae from Atlanta, Georgia, as expense money to facilitate the commission of the robberies.

The robbers primarily selected jewelry stores to maximize the amount of jewelry obtainable, to minimize the time needed to commit the robberies, and to lower the risk of apprehension. They entered the stores brandishing handguns, demanding jewelry, cash, and video security tapes from the employees. The stolen jewelry was then transported across state lines to Baker in Atlanta where he converted the jewelry to currency. The largest robbery was from a Zales jewelry store in Williamsburg, Virginia, where approximately \$986,573 in jewelry and \$700 in currency were stolen.

On August 8, 2004, Seneca Colbert was sentenced to 324 months incarceration for his participation in the Williamsburg robbery. On November 16, 2004, Tauheed Shakir pleaded guilty to the Williamsburg robbery and to a January 5, 2002, Leesburg, Virginia, robbery and to a firearms offense. Shakir was sentenced on February 28, 2005, to 220 months in prison. On January 18, 2005, Bryan Kelly pleaded guilty to a conspiracy to commit robberies of interstate businesses and a firearms offense and was sentenced to 204 months in prison. On April 6, 2005, Brewer was sentenced on his plea of guilty to conspiracy to interfere with commerce to 180 months in prison. On March 16, 2005, McRae was sentenced to 240 months in prison for his plea of guilty to conspiracy to interfere with commerce, a firearms offense and a money laundering conspiracy. On May 20, 2005, Troy Sherrell was sentenced to 168 months in prison for his pleas of guilty to conspiracy to interfere with commerce and a firearms offense.

The investigation was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the Georgia Bureau of Investigation; and numerous other local police and Sheriffs Departments throughout the Southeastern United States. Assistant United States Attorney Howard J. Zlotnick prosecuted the case for the United States.

###