



ATF News

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ATF-LED INVESTIGATION ENDS IN LIFE SENTENCES FOR ARYAN BROTHERHOOD LEADERS

LOS ANGELES – Four high ranking members of the Aryan Brotherhood convicted of murder and violations of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act have been sentenced to life in prison without parole.

U.S. District Court Judge David Carter sentenced Barry Mills, Tyler Bingham, and Edgar Hevle yesterday. They had been convicted in July of RICO conspiracy and the murders of Frank Joiner, Abdul Salaam and Arva Ray.

“We are very pleased with the sentences handed down,” said John A. Torres, Special Agent in Charge of the Los Angeles Field Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), which led the investigation. “These convictions and life sentences are the result of a multi-year investigation by ATF into this prison gang. We made the strategic decision to investigate this group due to the continued violence associated with them inside the prisons.”

In October 2002, 40 members and associates of the Aryan Brotherhood (AB) were indicted for racketeering charges that alleged a series of murders and violent attacks designed to preserve the power of the white, prison-based criminal enterprise. The indictment alleged that AB members committed 16 murders and 16 attempted murders, as well as additional conspiracies to commit murder and solicitation to murder.

These crimes allegedly were committed on behalf of the Brotherhood to promote the gang and its members and to control drug trafficking, gambling and extortion in the prison systems. To date, 19 defendants pleaded guilty, two defendants died, the government dismissed charges against two defendants, and five defendants have been convicted at trial. A third trial is underway in Los Angeles and the fourth trial is scheduled to begin in February 2007.

In addition to ATF, the case was investigated by the California Department of Corrections, the United States Bureau of Prisons; and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. More information on ATF and its programs is at www.atf.gov.

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