

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Multiple Firearm Possession Convictions Land Two St. Thomas Men In Federal Jail

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ST. THOMAS -- District Court Judge Curtis V. Gomez today sentenced two men from this island to federal prison for firearm possession, US Attorney Ronald Sharpe and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Special Agent in Charge Carlos A. Canino announced via press release.

The first, Lued Browne, 44, was sentenced to 42 months in prison for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Judge Gomez also sentenced Mr. Browne to serve three years of supervised release, 400 hours of community service and pay a \$100 special assessment.

On September 14, 2015, Mr. Browne pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. According to the plea agreement filed with the court, on May 22, 2015, Virgin Islands Police Department officers responded to a report that a vehicle was blocking the exit at the Antilles School. Upon arrival at the scene, officers observed Mr. Browne, the sole occupant of the vehicle, sitting in the driver's seat. The officer also observed a firearm between the driver's seat and the center console of the vehicle. The firearm was recovered.

Mr. Browne is a convicted felon and cannot legally possess a firearm in the Virgin Islands. He was previously convicted of armed bank robbery and use or possession of a firearm during a crime of violence in the Northern District of Florida, Gainesville Division, in 1992.

Judge Gomez also sentenced Ja'Moi Khadeem Corraspe, 23, to federal prison. He will serve 48 months for conspiracy to ship firearms with obliterated serial numbers. Additionally, Mr. Corraspe was sentenced to serve three years of supervised release, 600 hours of community service and pay a \$100 special assessment.

On September 14, 2015, Mr. Corraspe pleaded guilty to conspiracy to ship firearms with obliterated serial numbers. According to the plea agreement filed with the court, between August 6, 2013, and October 7, 2013, Mr. Corraspe conspired with other individuals to mail two firearms with obliterated serial numbers from Jacksonville, Florida, to St. Thomas. Mr. Corraspe is not a federally licensed firearm dealer and is not authorized to possess the firearm in the Virgin Islands.

Both cases were investigated by ATF. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Sigrid M. Tejo-Sprotte.