

The Virgin Islands Consortium

St. Thomian Accused Of Being Hitman For U.S. Gang Called 'Gangster Disciples'

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ST. THOMAS -- Virgin Islands native and former DeKalb County Police officer Vancito Gumbs, above, admitted to killing people while serving as a hitman for major U.S. gang, Gangster Disciples, according to an indictment unsealed on April 27. See indictment below.

Mr. Gumbs, 23, was among 32 alleged gang members indicted on federal racketeering charges in Georgia as part of a three-year investigation. Another indictment unsealed in Memphis, Tenn. charged another 16 alleged Gangster Disciple members, authorities said.

The defendants in the Georgia indictment are accused of murder, attempted murder, robbery, extortion and arson as well as drug trafficking and financial fraud. Mr. Gumbs was born in St. Thomas, but spent many of his years in Georgia, graduating from Stone Mountain High School, located near Atlanta.

Speaking at a televised press conference, U.S. Attorney John Horn said the DeKalb County Police Department was set to begin an investigation into Mr. Gumbs for using a controlled substance, but Mr. Gumbs resigned before the investigation could begin.

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According to Mr. Horn, several defendants indicted in Georgia are national leaders of the Gangster Disciples gang.

Gang members were allegedly behind the extortion of rap artists. Authorities said the artists were forced to become affiliated with the gang. The defendants are also accused of trafficking heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine as well credit card fraud.

The indictment alleges that each member of the gang agreed that each would commit at least two acts of racketeering as they conducted gang business.

The suspects could face life in prison on the federal charges. Many of them also face state charges.

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