



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
FELONS INDICTED FOR ILLEGAL
POSSESSION OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that three felons were indicted, in separate and unrelated cases, by a federal grand jury today for violating federal firearms laws. Today's indictments are part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Walter R. Barbour**, 38, of Kansas City, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of ammunition.

The federal indictment alleges that **Barbour** was in possession of 10 live rounds of PMC 9 mm ammunition on April 26, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Barbour** has a 1990 criminal felony conviction for auto theft and a 1992 criminal felony conviction for forcible sodomy.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rudolph R. Rhodes, IV. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Jason R. Fisher**, 29, of La Monte, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Fisher** was in possession of a Norinco 9 mm caliber machine gun on April 16, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Fisher** has two criminal felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. It was investigated by the Johnson County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

***Aaron W. Whittler**, 29, of Raytown, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Whittler** was in possession of a Ruger 9 mm pistol on July 2, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Whittler** has criminal felony convictions for delivery of a controlled substance in 2002, trafficking and possession of a controlled substance in 2001, trafficking and possession of a controlled substance in 2001, and possession of a controlled substance and unlawful use of a weapon in 1998.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rudolph R. Rhodes, IV. It was investigated by the Jackson County, Mo., Drug Task Force, the Raytown, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in these indictments are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow