



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
**KC FELON SENTENCED FOR ILLEGALLY POSSESSING
AN ASSAULT RIFLE**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City man was sentenced in federal court today for violating a federal firearms law. This case marks additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

Lorenzo I. Burns, 28, of Kansas City, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith, this morning to five years and 10 months in federal prison without parole.

On Nov. 25, 2002, **Burns** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Burns** admitted that on Sept. 29, 2002, he was found in possession of a Norinco, 7.62 mm assault rifle. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Burns** has three 2000 criminal felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance.

On Sept. 29, 2002, **Burns** was arrested after an area resident notified police of a man armed with a rifle near the intersection of 22nd and Elmwood streets in Kansas City. Following the resident's report, law enforcement officers apprehended **Burns** after they heard a gunshot come from a residence located at 2221 Elmwood. Once **Burns** was in custody, Graves said, the officers entered the residence and found two unharmed teenage assault victims lying on the floor.

This case was 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 and Firearms.

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 persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms for federal prosecution. Project Ceasefire has resulted in federal charges against 406 defendants, and convictions against 343 of those defendants, including 320 who pleaded guilty and 23 who were convicted at trial. A total of 297 of the 342 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 45 currently await sentencing hearings.

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