



# NEWS RELEASE

*Office of the United States Attorney  
Western District of Louisiana*

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**For Immediate Release  
January 14, 2004**

## **WELSH MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FIREARM CHARGE**

Lafayette, Louisiana . . . IVORY L. SIMON, age 41, from Welsh, Louisiana, pleaded guilty today before United States District Judge Tucker Melançon to receipt of a firearm by a person under charges in a bill of information, announced United States Attorney Donald W. Washington. SIMON was indicted by a federal grand jury in October 2003.

This case is being prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide program begun in 2001, and designed to reduce violence in our communities by aggressively using existing federal firearms laws. United States Attorneys, District Attorneys, Sheriffs, Police Chiefs, and state officials have created partnerships to address crimes involving firearms. Generally, any arrest involving a firearm is reviewed immediately by local, state and federal authorities to decide whether the case is best suited for prosecution under state or federal law, or a combination of both. Project Safe Neighborhoods is expected to lead to longer prison terms for violent criminals, and a significant reduction in violent crime. To date, federal prosecutions under Project Safe

Neighborhoods in the Western District of Louisiana have led to the incarceration of criminals responsible for violent crimes such as homicides, aggravated assaults, robbery, car jacking, burglary, and drug trafficking.

According to a factual stipulation filed into the court record, SIMON is charged with pawning the same firearm, an Excam .38 caliber derringer, on four different occasions, while SIMON was awaiting trial in Jefferson Davis Parish for attempted second degree murder. According to court documents, SIMON was aware that because of the pending attempted murder charge, he could not redeem or purchase a firearm because he would not be approved under the national Instant Check System (NICS). SIMON therefore had his wife redeem the firearm from the pawn shop by having her fill out the required ATF forms at the pawn shop and undergo the NICS background check in her own name.

Sentencing will be scheduled for a later date to be determined by the court. The maximum penalty SIMON could receive is a 5-year term of imprisonment, a fine of not more than \$250,000, and a period of supervised release of not more than 3 years following confinement.

Sentencing in federal court is governed by the United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This investigation was conducted by the Lake Charles Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearm and Explosives. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph T. Mickel.

For further information, please contact United States Attorney Donald W. Washington

at 337-262-6618 or First Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Flanagan at 318-676-3600.

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