



PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE

FROM THE OFFICE OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY ATTORNEY DOUG JOHNSON

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**WASHINGTON COUNTY ATTORNEY FILES MULTIPLE AGGRAVATED ROBBERY
CHARGES AGAINST TWO BROTHERS**

Washington County Attorney Doug Johnson announced today that his office has filed five criminal complaints against 18 year old Mbha Buma Foncham (7/3/1989) on multiple charges of Aggravated Robbery in the 1st Degree and Aiding and Abetting Aggravated Robbery in the 1st Degree. Four delinquency petitions have also been filed against 16 year old Fosam Buma Foncham (11/18/1991) on multiple charges of Aiding and Abetting Aggravated Robbery in the 1st Degree.

These charges address the aggravated robberies that occurred at the following businesses:

- Subway Restaurant, 1740 Weir Drive in Woodbury January 3, 2008;
- Subway Restaurant, 8470 City Centre Drive in Woodbury January 25, 2008;
- Quiznos Sub Shop, 1053 Helmo Ave. in Oakdale January 27, 2008;
- Marble Slab Creamery, 8144 Collier Way in Woodbury February 1, 2008;
- Starbucks Coffee Shop, 3156 Century Ave. in Mahtomedi February 4, 2008

In the January 3 incident, the two brothers allegedly entered the Subway restaurant just before 11:00 p.m. wearing ski masks. One of them jumped behind the counter and threatened the clerk with a butcher knife, telling him not to do “anything stupid”. He demanded the clerk open the cash register and safe. The other brother pointed a handgun at another employee who was sitting in a booth with his girlfriend. At one point the handgun was pressed against the girlfriend’s right temple while the suspect instructed the couple to not do anything stupid and demanded they both give him their cell phones. Once the money was handed over, the brothers left the store with the cash.

On January 25, the brothers allegedly entered another Subway restaurant around 11:00 p.m. while two clerks were closing up for the night. The Foncham brothers entered the store and walked behind the counter. One of them approached the female clerk with a gun in his hand. He pulled her to the back of the store and told her to get down onto the ground and lie on her stomach. He then tied her hands behind her back with zip ties. The other brother demanded that the male clerk give him the money from the cash register and safe while he threatened to shoot him. The suspects then left the restaurant with the money.

January 27, the two brothers allegedly came into the Quiznos Sub Shop around 7:45 p.m. and ordered one of the three female clerks to lie on the floor as they both pointed handguns at her. One of the brothers then walked to the back of the store where he found an employee cleaning. This employee was ordered to the floor at gun point and told repeatedly not to try anything or he would kill her. The other brother remained with the employee on the floor in the front of the store and pointed what appeared to be a semi-automatic handgun at her chest and threatened to kill her. He then asked her if she knew the code to the safe. The suspect proceeded to empty the safe and cash register and then the two brothers fled through the back door.

On February 1, the adult, Mbha Foncham, allegedly entered the Marble Slab Creamery around 8:45 p.m., with a bandana across his face. He approached the clerk behind the counter and held out a back handgun while demanding all of the money in the cash register. As this clerk was getting the cash out, Foncham told another clerk to get down on his knees and place his hands on the counter. Upon receiving the cash, Foncham left the store.

February 4, the brothers allegedly came into the Starbucks Coffee Shop just before 6:00 a.m. as the store was being opened by two clerks. One of the clerks had just opened the front door when one of the suspects entered the store and walked to the opening at the counter. He then pulled something over his face, reached into his waistband and pulled out what appeared to be a black semi-automatic gun. The suspect pointed the gun at the clerk and told her to get on the floor and “no funny stuff”. Then the other brother entered the store and approached this same clerk while she called out to her co-worker who was unaware at the time of what was taking place. The second suspect also approached her with a handgun and told her not to do anything or “I’ll shoot you” and “don’t look at me”. She was ordered to empty the register and safe. The brothers then demanded both clerks go into the back room where they used plastic zip ties to bind their hands. The brothers fled with the cash.

In several of these aggravated robberies the only identifying evidence, beyond a physical description of the robbers, was that the suspects had left in a white car. However, just as the two suspects were about to enter the Starbucks on February 4, a witness who lives across the street from Starbucks in Mahtomedi was up at 5:45 a.m. and heard a car door close so he looked out his window. A white Toyota Camry was parked in the visitor parking area of his residence. The witness saw two males get out of the Toyota and walk toward Century Avenue. He then saw them walk across the street to the northwest corner behind Starbucks. The two males loitered behind the business for a couple of minutes, which the witness thought was suspicious. Because of this, he wrote down the license plate number of the car. When Washington County Deputies arrived to investigate the aggravated robbery at Starbucks, this witness approached Deputy Stenglein and provided him with the license number of the white Toyota. A registration check was run on the residence of the registered owner of the car which led law enforcement to 6899 8th Street North in Oakdale. By 6:15 a.m. two Oakdale police officers arrived at the residence and found the white Toyota parked in the driveway. At that point Mbha Foncham came out of the front door and began walking towards the Toyota. Police identified themselves and Foncham opened the rear driver’s side of the car and threw a white bag onto the seat and closed the door. Foncham was arrested. When asked if he had any weapons he responded, “no”

but then pushed what appeared to be a black hand gun out of his jacket saying, "it's just a BB gun." Officers found \$348 of cash in Foncham's jacket pocket. He then told the officers that his mother and 16 year old brother were still inside the home. He said that there was another replica handgun in the house. Police then entered the home where they found Fosam Foncham and took him into custody.

A search warrant was then filed and executed at the home and in the Toyota wherein police found a black semi-automatic style CO2 pellet gun, two face masks, two rifle rounds, a blue Baretta pistol case with CO2 container, two pair of black cloth gloves, plastic zip ties, Starbucks paperwork and various articles of clothing.

After being taken into custody, the brothers were interviewed by Woodbury and Oakdale police officers regarding the other aggravated robberies, to which both confessed.

"Both suspects will appear in court today, where we will ask the court to set a high bail on the adult and ask the juvenile court to keep the 16 year old in custody until the next appearance, where we will be moving the court to certify him as an adult. We are very fortunate to have these two suspects charged and in custody. If it were not for the observant and conscientious tip from the witness who lives across the street from the Starbucks, these crimes may still be unsolved. It is a good example of how much law enforcement relies on citizens who care about the safety of our communities to help them do their jobs," said County Attorney Johnson.

For further information, please contact Doug Johnson or Sue Harris, Washington County Attorney's Office at 651-430-6115.

For copies of the complaints, please contact Lois Sarne at 651 430-6115