

## **Detroit bank robber pleads guilty**

Detroit News, The (MI) - Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Author: Paul Egan / The Detroit News

Detroit bank robber pleads guilty

By Paul Egan

The Detroit News

DETROIT – Jawan Martin, the last to plead guilty of the gang of bank robbers known as the "**AK-47 bandits**," is to be sentenced in federal court Dec. 15 after he admitted Friday to robbing nine area banks.

Martin, 28, of Detroit, was in the midst of a jury trial before U.S. District Judge Sean Cox when he pleaded guilty to two counts of using and carrying a firearm during a crime of violence and admitted to participating in the wave of bank robberies in 2006 and 2007, federal prosecutors said. Martin faces a minimum sentence of 32 years in prison.

Surveillance video shot during a June 2006 robbery at a Fifth Third Bank in Flint showed Martin putting a handgun to a teller's head.

In all, the gang took more than \$760,000 over about two years, with an **AK-47** -style assault rifle figuring in many of the robberies.

Earlier, gang leader Andre Jones, 28, pleaded guilty to 21 felony counts and faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 215 years.

Three getaway drivers also pleaded guilty. Gang member Terez Deon Rivers, 33, faces 10 years in prison; Frederick Samuel Humes, Jr., 29, faces 15 years; and Sparkle Eldridge, 23, faces up to five years.

Jones wrote in his diary, seized by the FBI, that he planned to rob at least 50 banks a year.

After a dye pack exploded during an escape from one of the banks, staining the stolen cash red, the gang used dishwasher soap and a clothes dryer to try to clean and dry the money, Eldridge told the FBI, according to court records.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Leonid Feller and Mark Chasteen.

You can reach Paul Egan at (313) 222-2069 or [pegan@detnews.com](mailto:pegan@detnews.com).

Edition: Online

Section: Metro

Record Number: det27533753

Copyright (c) The Detroit News. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Gannett Co., Inc. by NewsBank, inc.