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SNIFFING OUT THE BLOOD HOUNDS

More Than a Dozen Gang Members Indicted for Crimes that Terrorized the 52nd Precinct

Photos, indictment at: <http://tinyurl.com/ogfbdms>

(Bronx, NY – July 21, 2015) -- Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson announces 13 members of a subset of the Bloods gang, the “Blood Hounds,” along with one man known to associate with them, have been indicted for crimes ranging from Conspiracy, Attempted Gang Assault, Attempted Murder, to Criminal Possession of Weapons and Criminal Sale and Possession of Controlled Substances.¹

Many of the defendants were arrested in an early morning sweep following a year-long investigation that uncovered multiple incidents of shootings, illegal weapons possession and drug sales. When the incidents are alleged to have begun, some of the defendants were just 15 years old. Now, the bulk of those being charged range in age from 17-to-20; they include a father and son, and a set of brothers.

The following defendants were indicted; some were arraigned before Bronx Supreme Court Justice Steven Barrett and pled not guilty to the charges (A = arraigned):

Kipsom “Kippy” Brown, age 19
Aaliyah “Smiles”/”Chasity” Floyd, age 20 (A)
Michael “Mike” Maldonado, age 18

¹ See addendum, “Defendants and Charges” starting on page 4



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- Rodney "Nitty" Maldonado, age 35 (A)**
- Luis "Rast" Manso, age 17**
- Orlando "Wild Hound" Martinez, age 17**
- Ezequiel "EZ" Ochoa, age 18 (A)**
- Percy "Chino" Ochoa, age 19**
- Joseph "Sleepy"/"Baby" Perez, age 19 (A)**
- Trevor "Jay Montana" Phillips, age 18 (A)**
- Jason "Super" Roman, age 30 (A)**
- Ryan "Ra Balla" Rosario²**
- Steven "Sikk Hound" Sanchez, age 20**
- Aaron "Onix" Smith, age 19**

The others will be arraigned at a later date.

The crimes in the 35-count indictment are:

- Conspiracy in the 2nd Degree (Class B felony)**
- Conspiracy in the 4th Degree (Class E felony)**
- Attempted Murder in the 2nd Degree (Class B felony)**
- Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree (Class B felony)**
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree (Class B felony)**
- Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree (Class C felony)**
- Attempted Gang Assault in the 1st Degree (Class C felony)**
- Reckless Endangerment in the 1st Degree (Class D felony)**

It is alleged that the defendants would shoot to intimidate, as well as to kill. And then, they would boast on Facebook about their exploits. While most were still teenagers, this subset of the Bloods named the "Blood Hounds" operated in the 52nd Precinct for years, using Facebook and other social media to communicate their plans to one another as well as brag about the shootings in the neighborhood, especially around the area of Creston Avenue and 198th Street. Facebook chatter during 2013 and 2014 outlined many back-and-forth requests to bring a gun, and often, within minutes after a shooting, a Blood Hound would take credit.

Among the incidents charged in the indictment, at 11:30pm on August 4, 2013, AARON "Onix Hound" SMITH fired shots at Orlando de la Rosa. Within the hour, LUIS "Rast Hound" MANSO posted a message that Onix Hound had done the shooting.

In another allegation in the indictment, during the early evening of October 30, 2013, members of the Blood Hounds shot and wounded a man named Omar Martinez. In the wee hours of the next morning, PERCY "Chino Hound" OCHOA posted on Facebook – "Man down."

² Rosario, while not a member of the Blood Hounds, is accused of aiding its members in their commission of crimes.



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During the mid-afternoon of April 4, 2014, AARON “Onix Hound” SMITH is accused of posting a message asking AALIYAH “Chasity” FLOYD to give him a gun. It is charged that pictures on AALIYAH FLOYD’s Facebook page show her brandishing a weapon, and even posting a message that she’d gotten a gun – for her birthday.

Members of the gang also used Facebook to try to sell firearms, it is alleged. LUIS “Rast Hound” MANSO posted to Facebook that he had a .25-caliber gun for sale – price \$250. Also on Facebook, but on a different date, according to the indictment, MANSO asked TREVOR “Jay Montana” PHILLIPS if he wanted to “go half” on the purchase of a gun.

The conspiracy for robberies in and around Decatur Avenue and Minerva Place are also charged; one in which MICHAEL MALODNADO, acting in concert with others, conducted an armed robbery and an instance in which PERCY “Chino Hound” OCHOA, acting in concert with one other, forcibly stole a phone.

The gang assault charges stem from a brutal incident inside a bodega at 203 East 198th Street, during which numerous defendants are charged with accosting a victim inside the store, dragging him to the sidewalk outside where they kicked, stomped and beat him.

Drug sales are also outlined in the indictment, with a number of the defendants charged in sales to undercover NYPD officers.

“Gangs and guns are two of the most serious and troubling problems we are still dealing with in the Bronx,” says Bronx D.A. Robert Johnson. “Thanks to the efforts of the NYPD, its Gang Intelligence Unit, and particularly in this case, Det. Patrick Nichols and Sgt. Michael Melendez of the NYPD Gang Unit and members of the 52nd Precinct, and our Gangs/Major Case Bureau, we have made a significant dent in the problem that plagues our residents.

“This office is also working directly in the community, with programs such as CONCEPT, which seeks to reach young people in the schools to equip them with the skills to avoid gangs and prepare for a productive future.”

If convicted of the charges against them, some of the defendants face as many as 25 years in prison.

The case against the 14 defendants is being prosecuted by Gangs/Major Case Bureau Senior Trial Assistant D.A. Leah Takantzas and Counsel to the Gangs/Major Case Bureau Edward Friedenthal, led by Bureau Chief Edward Talty.

The charges in this indictment are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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DEFENDANT	CHARGES
<p>Luis Manso ("Rast") DOB 8/1/97 NYSID 11692048J</p>  <p>(Remanded; adj. to 7/23 for bail application)</p>	<p>Count 1 – 105.15 (murder) Count 2 – 105.10 (guns) Count 5 – 110/120.07 (gang assault) Count 6 – 110/125.25 Count 7 – 265.03 Count 8 – 110/125.25 Count 9 – 265.03 Count 10 – 110/125.25 Count 11 – 265.03 Count 16 – 110/125.25 Count 17 – 265.03</p>
<p>Ezequiel Ochoa ("EZ") 4/25/97 12501010N</p>  <p>(Note: Brother of Percy Ochoa; half-brother of Joseph Perez) Bail: \$200K/\$200K; adjourn date 9/30</p>	<p>Count 1 – 105.15 (murder) Count 2 - 105.10 (guns) Count 4 – 105.10 (narcotics) Count 14 – 110/125.25 Count 15 – 265.03 Count 16 – 110/125.25 Count 17 – 265.03 Count 30 – CSCS 3rd Count 31 – CPCS 3rd Count 32 – CPCS 3rd Count 33 – CPCS 3rd Count 34 – 120.25 Count 35 – 265.03</p>
<p>Percy Ochoa ("Chino") 6/18/96 12052428R</p>  <p>(Note: Brother of Ezequiel Ochoa; half-brother of Joseph Perez) (In custody)</p>	<p>Count 1 – 105.15 (murder) Count 2 – 105.10 (guns) Count 3 – 105.10 (robbery)</p>



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<p>Mike Maldonado ("Mike") 5/18/97 12400318J</p>  <p>(Note: Rodney Maldonado's son) (In custody)</p>	<p>Count 3 – 105.10 (robbery)</p>
<p>Aaron Smith ("Onix") 9/9/95 02887034R</p>  <p>(In custody)</p>	<p>Count 1 – 105.15 (murder) Count 2 – 105.10 (guns) Count 14 – 110/125.25 Count 15 – 265.03</p>
<p>Orlando Martinez ("Wild Hound") 10/9/97 02829390Q</p>  <p>(Adjourned to 7/23 for attorney assignment)</p>	<p>Count 5 – 110/120.07 (gang assault)</p>
<p>Steven Sanchez ("Sikk Hound") 7/2/95 11599785Q</p>  <p>(In custody)</p>	<p>Count 1 – 105.15 (murder) Count 2 – 105.10 (guns) Count 14 – 110/125.25 Count 15 – 265.03</p>



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<p>Jason Roman ("Super") 5/22/85 00585050N</p>  <p>(Remanded; adj. to 7/23 for bail application)</p>	<p>Count 2 – 105.10 (guns) Count 4 – 105.10 (narcotics) Count 12 – 265.03 Count 26 – CSCS 3rd Count 27 – CPCS 3rd Count 28 – CSCS 3rd Count 29 – CPCS 3rd Count 30 – CSCS 3rd Count 31 – CPCS 3rd Count 32 – CSCS 3rd Count 33 – CPCS 3rd</p>
<p>Trevor Phillips ("Jay Montana") 1/7/97 11628648M</p>  <p>Adjourned to 9/30; Bail \$100K/\$100K</p>	<p>Count 1 – 105.15 Count 2 - 105.10 Count 16 – 110/125.25 Count 17 – 265.03</p>
<p>Kipsom Brown ("Kippy") 12/30/95 12365520R</p> 	<p>Count 1 – 105.15 Count 2 - 105.10 Count 16 – 110/125.25 Count 17 – 265.03</p>
<p>Aaliyah Floyd ("Smiles"/"Chasity") 3/24/95 12532114R</p>  <p>Adjourned to 7/27 for bail application</p>	<p>Count 2 – 105.10 (guns) Count 13 – 265.03</p>



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<p>Joseph Perez (“Sleepy”/”Baby”) 4/6/94 09923185J</p>  <p>Half-brother of Ezequiel & Percy Ochoa Bail: \$35K/\$35K; adjourned to 9/10</p>	<p>Count 1 – 105.15 (murder) Count 2 – 105.10 (guns) Count 16 – 110/125.25 Count 17 – 265.03</p>
<p>Rodney Maldonado (“Nitty”) 7/3/80 08373934L</p>  <p>(Note: Mike Maldonado’s father) Bail: \$10K/\$10K; adjourned to 9/30</p>	<p>Count 4 – 105.10 (narcotics) Count 18 – CSCS 3rd Count 19 – CPCS 3rd Count 20 – CSCS 3rd Count 21 – CPCS 3rd Count 22 – CSCS 3rd Count 23 – CPCS 3rd Count 24 – CSCS 3rd Count 25 – CPCS 3rd</p>
<p>Ryan Rosario (“Ra Balla”) 4/12/96 11850234P</p>  <p>(In custody)</p>	<p>Count 14 – 110/125.25 Count 15 – 265.03</p>



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<u>Charge</u>	<u>Penal Code</u>	<u>Felony Class</u>
105.15	Conspiracy in the 2 nd Degree	B
105.10	Conspiracy in the 4 th Degree	E
110/120.07	Attempted Gang Assault in the 1 st Degree	C
110/125.25	Attempted Murder in the 2 nd Degree	B
265.03	Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2 nd Degree	C
220.39	Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the 3 rd Degree	B
220.16	Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3 rd Degree	B
120.25	Reckless Endangerment in the 1 st Degree	D