



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Davilyn Brackin

Public Affairs Specialist

(409) 839-2538

CROCKETT STREET CAR-JACKING GETS 21 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON

(Beaumont, Texas) A 28-year-old Texas City man has been sentenced to over 21 years in federal prison for armed car-jacking. **JASPER SKYE RIVERA** received a sentence of 175 months in prison for car-jacking and another 84 months for brandishing a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence. The sentences assessed by United States District Judge Thad Heartfield are the maximum possible and will run consecutively.

According to information presented in court, on April 11, 2003, two young women were leaving a nightclub in Beaumont's Crockett Street Entertainment District when they were approached by Rivera and another man. The men asked the women for a ride to a local motel. The women agreed and while en-route to the motel, Rivera pulled a pistol and ordered the women to a location near Major Drive and Brooks Road. The women were then forced from the vehicle at gunpoint and robbed of their purses, jewelry and the vehicle. The vehicle was recovered several days later in Galveston County and police were able to identify Rivera during the investigation.

Rivera has four prior felony convictions in Texas and Alabama. He pleaded guilty to the car-jacking and firearms charges on March 3, 2004. However, on June

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23, 2004, while awaiting sentencing in federal custody, Rivera and two other inmates overpowered a guard at the Liberty County Jail, battered a hole in a wall, and escaped. Rivera was arrested several days later in Harris County and has been indicted for that escape.

Matthew D. Orwig, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, stated, "We are pleased with this sentence. The criminal acts by this Defendant have been increasingly violent in nature. We are hopeful his reign of terror has come to an end."

This case was investigated by the Beaumont Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Hobbs prosecuted the case.

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