



Robert D. Bernardi
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News

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Burlington County Prosecutor Robert D. Bernardi announced today that a Burlington County Grand Jury has returned an 8-count indictment charging 4 South Jersey men with Burglary, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Weapons Offenses and Criminal Mischief for their participation in a home invasion that took place in Medford, N.J. earlier this year. Charged in the indictment are:

Ryan A. Trifiletti, age 21, of 713 Decatur Drive, Mount Laurel, N.J.
Jason R. Opfer, age 20, of 9 Winterberry Court, Mount Laurel, N.J.
Mark R. Verdone, age 19, of 118 Yorktown Drive, Mount Laurel, N.J.
Arthur J. Bellocchio, age 21, of 225 Ramblewood Parkway, Mount Laurel, N.J.

Each of the defendants was indicted on the following charges: Robbery, 1st degree; Burglary, 2nd degree, Aggravated Assault, 2nd degree, Aggravated Assault, 3rd degree, Aggravated Assault, 4th degree, Possession of A Weapon for Unlawful Purpose, 2nd degree, Possession of a Weapon for Unlawful Purpose, 4th degree, and Criminal Mischief.

Background: On March 9, 2003, at approximately 5:40 a.m. officers from the Medford Township police department responded to a reported home invasion at 1426 Stokes Road. When officers arrived they found 2 victims inside the home, both had been physically assaulted. One victim, had been struck several times with a baseball bat. The second victim, suffered cuts, contusions and three pellet wounds as a result of being shot with a bb gun. 2 of the pellets had to be surgically removed, one from the temple area and the other from his arm. Authorities are not releasing the names of the victims.

The Medford Township police Criminal Investigation Bureau conducted the investigation. The investigation revealed that the defendants had attended a party on March 6, 2003 at the victim's home that resulted in a disagreement over a nitrous oxide tank brought to the party by the defendants.

Subsequently on March 9th, the defendants returned to the victim's home and forcibly entered and assaulted the victims. As a result of the investigation by the Medford police, the 2 bb guns, baseball bat used in the attack and the nitrous oxide tank was recovered.

If convicted on all charges, the defendants face up to 20 years in state prison. No further court dates have been scheduled.

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