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Middle District of Florida*

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Robert E. O'Neill, United States Attorney

Contact: William Daniels

(813) 274-6388

william.daniels@usdoj.gov



Jason Riani 07/03/1980

**GANGSTER DISCIPLE STREET GANG MEMBER SENTENCED TO MORE
THAN 24 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON**

Tampa, Florida — U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces that U.S. District Judge James S. Moody, Jr. today sentenced James Jason Riani, a/k/a Wicked, (32, Spring Hill) to 24 years and 7 months in federal prison for possession with intent to distribute Methamphetamine and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. This sentence was ordered to be served consecutive to a recent 5-year Florida prison sentence which Riani received for battery on another prison inmate. The court also ordered Riani to forfeit his firearms and ammunition. Riani pled guilty on October 7, 2011.

According to court documents, in September 2010 Riani was arrested for possession of a stolen motorcycle by Hernando County Sheriff's Office detectives. Prior to the arrest, Riani attempted to pull a loaded firearm. He was later found to be in possession of two other handguns, a broken down shotgun and a quantity of methamphetamine. Riani is a member of the Gangster Disciple street gang, which he joined while serving an earlier prison sentence.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Hernando County Sheriff's Office. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Walter E. Furr, III. It is another case prosecuted as a part of the Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhoods program – a nationwide, gun-violence reduction strategy led by ATF. United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill, along with Virginia O'Brien, Special Agent in Charge, ATF, is coordinating the Project Safe Neighborhoods effort here in the Middle District of Florida in cooperation with federal, state, and local law enforcement officials.