

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Theodore F. L. Housel

Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

March 16, 2010

2 Page (s)

For further information contact:

Madelaine Vitale 609-909-7855

609-457-7359

MAYS LANDING – An Atlantic City man entered a guilty plea today for committing an armed robbery and resisting arrest, in connection with a 2009 attack on a terminally ill resident of an Atlantic City apartment complex, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel stated.

Dawud Ali, 47, pled open, which means the length of the prison term, is at the Judge's discretion. Superior Court Judge James E. Isman told the defendant that the sentence would not exceed 15 years but could not be lower than 10 years. The defendant must serve 85 percent of the prison term imposed before he is eligible for parole, according to Assistant Prosecutor Seth Levy.

Ali, of the Highgate Apartments, which is located on Absecon Boulevard, acknowledged during today's hearing, that at about 6 p.m. on Feb. 24, 2009, he went to Richard Carozzoni's Highgate apartment and attempted to steal the victim's prescription medication Oxycontin. Ali demanded the drugs from the 47-year-old man and when the victim would not comply, Ali hit him with an end table and stabbed him in the arm with either a knife or a piece of glass, Levy said.

Moments later, Atlantic City Police received a 911 call from Carozzoni's roommate and responded to the apartment complex. Upon arrival, police discovered the victim had suffered visible injuries and his apartment was ransacked. As Ali was attempting to flee police tried to take him into custody but Ali violently struggled. He wrestled one of the officers to the ground and only when he nearly escaped, was the intervention of a K9 officer required. This crime occurred prior to K-9s being taken off of the streets of Atlantic City, Prosecutor Housel said.

Ali was taken into custody and transported to the Atlantic County Justice Facility where he has remained in lieu of bail pending an outcome of the case. In May of 2009 an Atlantic County Grand Jury indicted Ali. Judge Isman revoked his bail today and will sentence the defendant on April 16, Levy said.

"Today's plea is significant because it represents how the criminal justice system successfully protects those who cannot protect themselves," Levy stated.

Anyone with information involving serious crimes is asked to call the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office at 609-909-7800 or go to the Prosecutor's Office Web site at <http://www.acpo.org/tips.html> and provide information by filling out the form anonymously on the Submit a Tip page. People can also call Crime Stoppers at 609-652-1234 or 1-800-658-8477 (TIPS) or visit the Crime Stoppers Website at <http://www.crimestoppersatlantic.com/>. Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards for information leading to the arrest and indictment of those who commit crimes in Atlantic County.