

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
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MAYS LANDING— A 27-year-old Ocean County man entered a guilty plea today to two counts of kidnapping and one count of second-degree robbery in connection with a 2006 home invasion of an Egg Harbor Township woman. He faces 24 years in prison when he is sentenced in July, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel stated.

Jamell China, of Toms River, admitted that he entered the woman's home on June 15, 2006, while she was asleep in her bedroom with her five-month old daughter. After startling her awake, China demanded money from her. When the woman could only produce \$80, China then ordered her to place her baby in her vehicle and drive to her bank where she withdrew \$2,600 and gave it China. China then ordered the woman to drive back to her residence, however, before arriving he exited her car and fled, according to Assistant Prosecutor Mario Formica who handled the State's case.

When the victim, whose identity is not being released due to the nature of the crime, returned home, she reported the crime to the Egg Harbor Township Police Department. China was arrested in September of 2006 in Monmouth County on unrelated charges. Information developed by Egg Harbor Township Police led them to the defendant. He was arrested on the Atlantic County charges less than three weeks later, Formica said.

Formica credited the work of Egg Harbor Township Detectives Fred Spano and Anthony Merendino in identifying China as the perpetrator.

Superior Court Judge Bernard E. DeLury presided over the plea hearing and will sentence China on July 9. The defendant must serve 85 percent of the prison term imposed before parole eligibility.

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.