

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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MAYS LANDING— A Superior Court Judge sentenced an Ocean County man to 24 years in prison today for kidnapping an Egg Harbor Township woman and her infant in a 2006 home invasion, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced.

Jamell China, 27, of Toms River in Ocean County, who entered a guilty plea in April to two counts of kidnapping and one count of robbery, must serve 85 percent of the prison term imposed before parole eligibility.

Prior to imposing sentence this afternoon, Superior Court Judge Bernard E. DeLury called China a dangerous recidivist whose crimes warranted a lengthy prison term. China, whose prior convictions include sexual assault and carjacking, is serving a 20-year prison term for a carjacking that occurred in Monmouth County.

At his plea in April China admitted to entering the woman's home on June 15, 2006, while she was asleep in her bedroom with her five-month old child. 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.

Formica told the court at today's sentencing that the defendant preyed upon a young woman whom he spotted at the English Creek shopping center in Egg Harbor Township. He said China followed the victim, whose name is not being released due to the nature of the crime, to her home and watched her husband leave the house. The defendant then entered the residence through an unlocked door and found the woman asleep with her baby in an upstairs bedroom.

Formica called China "sinister and cowardly" in that he told the victim that he felt "sorry for her child if she did not comply with his demands."

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

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.