

News Release

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Two Berkeley County men found guilty of Burglary 1st Degree, Armed Robbery, and Kidnapping, in August 6, 2010, Goose Creek Home Invasion

Moncks Corner, S.C. – A Berkeley County jury found 33 year old Clarence Fishburne and 21 year old Douglas Thompson guilty of Burglary 1st Degree, Armed Robbery, and Kidnapping in a home invasion that occurred in the Harbor Lake Drive area of Goose Creek on August 6, 2010. After the jury verdict, Circuit Court Judge Kristi Lea Harrington, who presided over the four day trial, sentenced Fishburne to twenty (20) years in prison and Thompson to fifteen (15) years.

Testimony during the trial revealed that on August 6, 2010, the victims were on the back porch of their residence around 11:30 p.m. when Fishburne, Thompson, and a still unidentified third suspect, approached them and pointed a gun at them. One of the victims was placed in a chokehold by one of the suspects, at which time the suspects began demanding the victims give them their money. After taking one of the victims' wallets, the suspects then forced the two men inside their apartment at gunpoint. Inside the home at this time was the pregnant wife of one of the victims and their 3 year old daughter, who was

sleeping upstairs. As the victims were being forced inside the wife saw what was happening and fled the apartment to get help. Two of the suspects forced the victims upstairs, while the third suspect remained downstairs as lookout and began rummaging through the victim's home looking for things to steal. Upstairs the suspects ordered the victims to get down on their knees and threatened to kill them if they didn't give them their money. A female neighbor bravely rushed into the apartment to check on the welfare of the 3 year old daughter, at which time the suspects became startled and fled the apartment. In addition to wallets and money being stolen, the suspects also stole cell phones and a laptop computer belonging to the victims.

Shortly thereafter, another neighbor called 911, and when the first Berkeley County Sheriff's Deputy arrived in the area he saw Fishburne, Thompson, and the third suspect walking up Harbor Lake Drive approximately one quarter mile from the victim's home. At that time Thompson was carrying the laptop that had been stolen from the victims' home. The still unidentified third suspect fled on foot, but Thompson and Fishburne were detained. After the victims were able to positively identify Fishburne and Thompson, they were arrested and searched. Fishburne was found to be in possession of two cell phones belonging to the victims. In addition, the victims found a phone on the floor of their living room that belonged to Fishburne.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant Solicitor Ashley Cornwell and Deputy Solicitor Bryan Alfaro.

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