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PRESS RELEASE

Edwardsville— State's Attorney Tom Gibbons has directed the Illinois State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor to prepare a petition for leave to appeal following a decision by the 5th District Appellate Court to reverse an October 2011 conviction.

Olutosin Oduwole (d.o.b. 07/25/85) was convicted by a Madison County Jury on October 25, 2011 of Attempt Making a Terrorist Threat, a Class 1 Felony, and was sentenced on December 21, 2011 to five years in prison by Circuit Judge Richard Tognarelli. Prosecutors asked for 15 years, the maximum for a Class 1 Felony. Oduwole was also convicted of Unlawful Possession or Storage of Weapons in a Public Supported Building, a Class A Misdemeanor. He received a concurrent sentence of 364 days in jail for the misdemeanor and a \$1000 fine.

The petition for leave to appeal must first go to the Illinois Attorney General's Office where a decision is made whether or not to pursue the appeal. State's Attorney Gibbons has written to Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan to encourage her to file the petition with the Illinois Supreme Court. "We respectfully disagree with the decision by the Appellate Court and feel that not all evidence presented to the jury during the trial was weighed and considered appropriately by the Appellate Court before reversing Oduwole's conviction," said Gibbons. "Therefore, I am asking Attorney General Madigan to join us in the fight to protect our community and to honor this jury's decision by pursuing this case to the Illinois Supreme Court."

Oduwole was charged in July 2007 after campus police searched his abandoned car and found a note threatening a "murderous rampage" similar to what had occurred on the Virginia Tech campus earlier that year if people did not send money to a PayPal account. Police investigating the case found a loaded .25 caliber handgun in Oduwole's campus apartment and evidence that he had ordered three identical .380 caliber semi-automatic handguns and a .45 caliber semi-automatic firearm and was awaiting delivery when he was arrested. Further investigation revealed that Oduwole had created a short video containing even more explicit threatening language similar to the note and that he had already opened the PayPal account.

"The jurors in this case weighed all of the evidence presented to them, and, after thorough deliberations, they determined that the defendant was a threat to the safety of Madison County and its residents. They found beyond a reasonable doubt that the Defendant had taken substantial steps toward making a terrorist threat," Gibbons added. "This case is a perfect example of everyone doing the right thing at the right time. If it hadn't been for the brave and decisive actions of a firearms dealer and numerous law enforcement officers and agencies, our community may also have suffered the devastation of a mass killing, like the horrors experienced by the victims and community at Virginia Tech. I'm hopeful that this case will proceed to the Supreme Court where the Jury's guilty verdict can be restored."

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