

May 24, 2011 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THREE INDICTED FOR CROSS BURNING IN BASS RIVER, NEW JERSEY

MOUNT HOLLY, N.J.- Burlington County Prosecutor Robert D. Bernardi announced today that threemen have been indicted in connection with a cross burning that took place along a roadway in BassRiver Township in February 2011.

The burning cross, which was placed by the defendants alongside Route 9 South near the intersection with Ash Road, was reported to the Tuckerton Barracks of the New Jersey State Police at approximately 8:30 p.m. on February 16, 2011.

The subsequent investigation by the New Jersey State Police revealed that an African-American family resides in the area where the cross was burnt.

Charged by a Burlington County Grand Jury with Bias Intimidation (Second Degree) and Arson (Third Degree) were: Nicholas Comis, age 22, of 124 Jericho Road, Tuckerton, N.J.; Christopher Hurrell, age 21, of 203 Birch Road, Tuckerton, N.J.; and Daniel Enders, age 22, of 5674 Route 9 in New Gretna, N.J.

The defendants were arrested in the area of the burning cross by troopers who responded to a call for a suspicious incident. The cross was constructed with framing lumber and measured eight feet tall and four feet wide. The indictments were returned today.

An arraignment will be scheduled soon in Superior Court in Burlington County.

An indictment is merely an accusation. The defendant is presumed innocent unless or until proven guilty.

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