



More charges for Fort Dix Five

By KITTY CAPARELLA
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The Fort Dix Five face enhanced penalties with two new charges in a superseding indictment handed up from a federal grand jury yesterday in last year's alleged plot to kill soldiers at the Army's military base.

The latest indictment, released by the U.S. attorney's office in Camden, increases the number of counts from five to seven, including charges of attempted murder, which carries a 20-year prison term if convicted.

More serious is the mandatory, 30-year consecutive prison term if the defendants are convicted of possession or attempt to possess machine guns in furtherance of a crime of violence. Attorney Rocco Cipparone, who represents Mohamad Ibrahim Shnewer, called the two new counts his client faces "a relatively substantial enhancement to the penalty" if the defendants are convicted.

Attorney Michael Huff, who represents Dritan Duka, who also is charged with the new counts, said that the lawyers and defendants were expecting the new charges.

He said that the defendants could be arraigned Friday at a status conference for the upcoming trial. But U.S. District Judge Robert B. Kugler has set no arraignment date.

On May 7, Shnewer, Duka and his two brothers, Eljver and Shain and Serdar Tatar and Agron Abdullahu were arrested in the alleged terror plot said to be inspired by al Qaeda. They were indicted a month later.

On Oct. 31, Abdullahu pleaded guilty to providing firearms to three former co-defendants, who are illegal immigrants. He will not testify against his former co-defendants, and is likely to face at least two years in prison and, ultimately, deportation.

The five also are charged with conspiracy to kill members of the U.S. military, a crime that could bring life sentences.

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