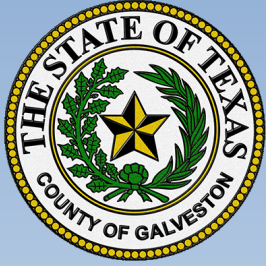


**JACK
ROADY**



Kayla Allen
FIRST ASSISTANT

Johnny Freeze
CHIEF INVESTIGATOR

**Zonia
Wiltturner-Smith**
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER

Contact:
Brent Haynes
ASSISTANT CRIMINAL
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Email:
brent.haynes(at)
galveston.co.tx.us

Direct:
409-770-6280

Main:
409-766-2355

Fax:
409-766-2290

MEDIA ADVISORY

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International Drug Trafficker Sentenced to 25 Years

GALVESTON – On Wednesday afternoon, a Galveston County jury convicted Akintayo Taiwo Akinrinlola, of Houston, of drug trafficking and engaging in organized activity. Akinrinlola was sentenced to 25 years in prison for each conviction.

In November of 2022, Customs and Border Patrol agents in Louisville, Kentucky seized a package from Belgium bound for Galveston Island. Upon inspection, customs officers discovered more than four kilograms of ketamine hidden inside a fitness medicine ball. Ketamine, a drug legally used for anesthesia, is often sold illegally for its hallucinogenic properties. Officers turned the package over to Homeland Security who began an investigation in Galveston.

Galveston police officers and Homeland Security agents conducted a controlled delivery at the Holiday Inn on Seawall Blvd, where the package was scheduled for delivery. Akinrinlola and another man arrived at the hotel. While the other man went inside and retrieved the package Akinrinlola remained in the parking lot. Officers apprehended both men. Akinrinlola was indicted for possession of a controlled substance, penalty group one, in an amount greater than 400 grams and engaging in organized criminal activity.

Trial began Monday. Prosecutors Kate Willis and Tyler Alley presented testimony from Galveston Police Detective Matthew Cauley, who showed jurors that upon a search of the defendant's phone he found countless messages documenting his drug dealing. Willis presented evidence of Akinrinlola sharing the false name on the package of narcotics, tracking information, and plans to sell the narcotics. Evidence showed that Akinrinlola had been selling narcotics for at least two years across the country. During closing argument, Willis told the jury, "the amount of ketamine sent by Mr. Akinrinlola is over 4 million milligrams, that is over 820,000 doses – to be clear that is enough to dose every person on Galveston Island fifteen times. It is enough to dose every person in Galveston County at least twice." Wednesday afternoon, the jury returned a guilty verdict.

The defendant chose to have the judge assess punishment and testified in the punishment phase of the trial. Akinrinlola admitted having already been on probation for another drug felony as well as being free on bond for a felony drug charge in Dallas County.

Willis told the court: "This is not a minimum case. Mr. Akinrinlola knew the consequences and did not care. He instead shipped over 4000 grams from another country to our island." By law, both charges had a punishment range of 15 years to 99 years in the Texas penitentiary. Judge Jared Robinson sentenced Akinrinlola to 25 years in prison for each conviction, to run concurrently.

The Galveston County Criminal District Attorney commends the Galveston Police Department and Homeland Security for their work in this case.

Cause No. 22-CR-4315 and 23-CR-0180, 405th Judicial District Court, Honorable Jared Robinson, presiding.

Mugshots of current inmates are available at: <http://p2c.co.galveston.tx.us/jailinmates.aspx>.