NEWS RELEASE
Luther Strange
Alabama Attorney General

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 26, 2011

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AG ANNOUNCES ANOTHER COLD CASE VICTORY WITH CONVICTION, SENTENCING FOR 1995 RAPE IN LEE COUNTY

(MONTGOMERY)--Attorney General Luther Strange announced another significant cold case victory, with the conviction and sentencing of a man for a 1995 rape in Lee County. Kevin Tawan Ross pleaded guilty on October 24 in Lee County Circuit Court to first-degree rape. He was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment. Ross, 34, is of Opelika.

The Attorney General's Office presented information to a grand jury in May of 2011, including newly-available DNA analysis of evidence collected at the time of the crime. Ross was convicted for the assault of a 51-year old woman on December 9, 1995. The victim was walking on the sidewalk near her residence about 7:30 p.m. and was forced into a vehicle, held at gunpoint, and taken to a wooded area where she was raped.

The conviction announced today resulted from a project within the Attorney General's Office, in partnership with the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences, to investigate violent sexual crimes that previously had been closed due to lack of investigative leads. This program is funded by a grant from the U.S Department of Justice.

"I am pleased that this case provides another important example of the Attorney General's Office working together with other law enforcement agencies to persevere in achieving justice for victims," said Attorney General Strange. He praised the cooperative efforts of the Attorney General's Violent Crimes Division, the Attorney General's Investigations Division-Cold Case Unit, the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences, and the Opelika Police Department. Attorney General Luther Strange commended Assistant Attorneys General James Rutter and Will Dill, Deputy Attorney General Sonny Reagan, and special agents of the Attorney General's Investigations Division.

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