



## **AG ANNOUNCES GUILTY PLEAS FOR TALLEDEGA SHOOTING THAT INJURED TWO UNINVOLVED BYSTANDERS AT ELKS CLUB**

(MONTGOMERY) –Attorney General Luther Strange announced the conviction today of a man for a shooting at the Talladega Elks Club that injured two young women who were uninvolved bystanders. Jonathan Darrell Moten, also known as “Peaches,” pleaded guilty in Talladega County Circuit Court to one count of discharging a weapon into an occupied building, one count of discharging a weapon into an occupied vehicle, one count of first-degree assault and one count of second-degree assault. Moten was sentenced as a habitual offender to 15 years imprisonment for each count, to run concurrently.

“This defendant fully intended to shoot and cause serious injury to certain individuals, and he acted with reckless disregard for all others who were nearby,” said Attorney General Strange. “Thankfully, the two young women who were shot survived, and no others were injured. This is a terrible crime that could have caused far more severe damage. The defendant has admitted to these acts and deserves to face stern punishment for the harm he has done.”

According to evidence from prosecutors, on December 22, 2012 Moten was involved in an altercation at the Talladega Elks Lodge. After club security broke up the altercation, Moten ran outside to his car and retrieved a pistol. As the other individuals who were involved in the altercation left the club, he confronted them in the parking lot and began firing his pistol at them multiple times.

Moten missed his intended targets, but stray bullets hit two young women inside the club who had no involvement in the original altercation. Both victims were taken to University of Alabama at Birmingham Medical Center and treated for their injuries, which they survived.

Moten’s intended targets ran to their car and left the parking lot while Moten fired additional shots into their vehicle, but fortunately missed all of the occupants. Moten’s intended victims as well as club security guards confirmed that Moten was the individual who fired the shots.

Moten was sentenced as a habitual offender due to a prior conviction for second-degree robbery in Montgomery County.

Attorney General Strange commended those involved in bringing this case to a successful conclusion, noting in particular Assistant Attorneys General John C. Hensley III and Ternisha Miles of his Criminal Trials Division. He also thanked the Talladega Police Department for its investigation and the Talladega County District Attorney’s Office for valuable assistance.

