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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY ATTORNEY
PRESS RELEASE
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TARIQ ZUBHUZA SENTENCED TO 5 TO 10 YEARS IN THE NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE PRISON

Hillsborough County Attorney Dennis C. Hogan announces that Tariq Zubhuza, age 20, of 37 Vine Street, Nashua was sentenced to a total of 5 to 10 years in the New Hampshire State Prison in Hillsborough County Superior Court, South by the Honorable Diane Nicolosi on January 4, 2012. Mr. Zubhuza was charged with Criminal Threatening, Criminal Restraint and Burglary as a result of an armed home invasion in Nashua. All three charges are classified as Class B Felonies carrying a maximum sentence of 3 ½ to 7 years in the New Hampshire State Prison. He was convicted on all three counts after a jury trial ending October 20, 2011.

The jury heard that on December 3, 2010, Zubhuza went to a residence in Nashua with Crystol Pelletier to collect a debt on her behalf. The person who owed the debt was not at home at the time. Upon being informed of this fact Zubhuza forced his way into the residence which was occupied by a young mother and her five children under the age of 7. Her father was also present assisting in the morning routine with his grandchildren. Zubhuza put a loaded gun to the temple of the grandfather and prevented the young mother from leaving to take her child to a doctor's appointment, insisting they call the person who owed the money.

After Zubhuza left the residence, a neighbor flagged down a passing cruiser and based on the descriptions provided by the victims, Office William Adamson was able to identify Zubhuza as a suspect. The Nashua Police Department obtained a search warrant for Zubhuza's residence where they found the firearm concealed in a drop ceiling as well as articles of clothing matching the victims' descriptions of the attire of Zubhuza.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant County Attorneys Cassie Devine and Michele Battaglia, with the assistance of Merrill Beauchamp, a Victim/Witness Advocate in the Hillsborough County Attorney's Office. Attorneys Devine and Battaglia recommended two consecutive sentences of 2 ½ to 5 in the New Hampshire State Prison citing the violence of the crime which occurred in broad daylight with small children present. Zubhuza's counsel, Roger Chadwick of Nashua, recommended two consecutive 12 month sentences in the Hillsborough County House of Corrections.

In adopting the State's recommendation with a sentence of 3 to 6, stand committed on the Criminal Threatening Charge and a consecutive sentence of 2 to 4 to run concurrent with each other on the Criminal Restraint charge and the Burglary charge Judge Nicolosi stated that there is a "threshold level people cannot cross into random violence." She told Zubhuza that "you put

two people in harm of death” and “at some point you have to make a decision to stop” engaging in this kind of behavior. “You held a loaded gun to the head of a man; you cannot understand the fear that put him in.” She also noted there were small children and another present and found that this “conduct warrants prison.”

For questions, please call County Attorney Dennis Hogan at the County Attorney’s Office in Manchester at 627-5605.

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