

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
BEAUFORT DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Criminal No. 9:25-cr-692

vs.

**WILLIAM OMAR HEYWARD, JR.,****a/k/a "O"****CHRISTOPHER ANDREW COPELAND,****ISHMAEL ALLEN RIVERS,****a/k/a "Ish"**

18 U.S.C. § 2

18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1)

18 U.S.C. § 922(k)

18 U.S.C. § 922(o)

18 U.S.C. § 924(a)(1)(B)

18 U.S.C. § 924(a)(2)

18 U.S.C. § 924(a)(8)

18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1)(C)(i)

21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1)

21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(A)

21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(B)

21 U.S.C. § 846

21 U.S.C. § 851

26 U.S.C. § 5812

26 U.S.C. § 5841

26 U.S.C. § 5861(d)

26 U.S.C. § 5861(e)

26 U.S.C. § 5871

**INDICTMENT**  
**(UNDER SEAL)**

**COUNT 1**

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:

That beginning at a time unknown to the grand jury, but at least in or around November of 2023, and continuing thereafter, up to and including the date of this Indictment, in the District of South Carolina and elsewhere, the Defendants, **WILLIAM OMAR HEYWARD, a/k/a "O"**, and **CHRISTOPHER ANDREW COPELAND**, knowingly and intentionally did combine, conspire and agree and have tacit understanding with each other and others, both known and unknown to

the grand jury, to possess with intent to distribute and distribute methamphetamine, a Schedule II controlled substance:

- a. With respect to **WILLIAM OMAR HEYWARD, a/k/a "O"**, the amount involved in the conspiracy attributable to him as a result of his own conduct, and the conduct of other conspirators reasonably foreseeable to him, is 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A); and
- b. With respect to **CHRISTOPHER ANDREW COPELAND**, the amount involved in the conspiracy attributable to him as a result of his own conduct, and the conduct of other conspirators reasonably foreseeable to him, is 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A);

All in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846.

### **COUNT 2**

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

That on or about December 19, 2023, in the District of South Carolina, the Defendant, **WILLIAM OMAR HEYWARD, a/k/a "O"**, knowingly, intentionally and unlawfully did possess with intent to distribute and did distribute 5 gram or more of methamphetamine, a Schedule II controlled substance;

In violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B).

**COUNT 3**

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

That on or about January 4, 2024, in the District of South Carolina, the Defendant, **WILLIAM OMAR HEYWARD, a/k/a "O"**, knowingly, intentionally and unlawfully did possess with intent to distribute and did distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, a Schedule II controlled substance;

In violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A).

**COUNT 4**

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

That on or about January 19, 2024, in the District of South Carolina, the Defendant, **WILLIAM OMAR HEYWARD, a/k/a "O"**, knowingly, intentionally and unlawfully did possess with intent to distribute and did distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, a Schedule II controlled substance;

In violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A).

**COUNT 5**

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

That on or about February 28, 2024, in the District of South Carolina, the Defendants, **WILLIAM OMAR HEYWARD, a/k/a “O,”** and **CHRISTOPHER ANDREW COPELAND,** knowingly, intentionally and unlawfully did possess with intent to distribute and did distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, a Schedule II controlled substance, and did aid and abet each other in commission of the aforementioned offense;

In violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A), and Title 18 United States Code, Section 2.

**COUNT 6**

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

That on or about February 28, 2024, in the District of South Carolina, the Defendant, **WILLIAM OMAR HEYWARD, a/k/a “O,”** knowingly possessed a firearm and ammunition in and affecting commerce, to wit, a Polymer 80 Inc., Model PF940CL, 9mm pistol and 9mm ammunition, having previously been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, and knowing he had been convicted of such a crime;

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(g)(1) and 924(a)(8).

**COUNT 7**

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

That on or about April 12, 2024, in the District of South Carolina, the Defendant, **WILLIAM OMAR HEYWARD, a/k/a "O"**, knowingly, intentionally and unlawfully did possess with intent to distribute and did distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, a Schedule II controlled substance;

In violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A).

**COUNT 8**

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

That on or about May 2, 2024, in the District of South Carolina, the Defendant, **WILLIAM OMAR HEYWARD, a/k/a "O"**, knowingly, intentionally and unlawfully did possess with intent to distribute and did distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, a Schedule II controlled substance;

In violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A).

**COUNT 9**

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

That on or about May 2, 2024, in the District of South Carolina, the Defendant, **WILLIAM OMAR HEYWARD, a/k/a "O"**, knowingly used and carried a firearm during and in relation to, and did possess a firearm in furtherance of, a drug trafficking crime, as set forth in Count 8, which is prosecutable in a court of the United States;

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(C)(i).

**COUNT 10**

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

That on or about May 2, 2024, in the District of South Carolina, the Defendant, **WILLIAM OMAR HEYWARD, a/k/a “O”**, knowingly possessed a firearm in and affecting commerce, to wit, a Palmetto State Armory 9mm Dagger pistol, having previously been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, and knowing he had been convicted of such a crime;

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(g)(1) and 924(a)(8).

**COUNT 11**

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

That on or about May 2, 2024, in the District of South Carolina, the Defendant, **WILLIAM OMAR HEYWARD, a/k/a “O”**, knowingly did possess a firearm, to wit, a Palmetto State Armory 9mm Dagger pistol, which had the importer’s and manufacturer’s serial number removed, obliterated, and altered and had at some time been shipped and transported in interstate and foreign commerce;

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(k) and 924(a)(1)(B).

**COUNT 12**

## THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:

That on or about May 2, 2024, in the District of South Carolina, the Defendants, **WILLIAM OMAR HEYWARD, a/k/a “O,”** and **ISHMAEL ALLEN RIVERS, a/k/a “ISH,”** did knowingly possess and transfer a machinegun as defined by Title 26, United States Code, Section 5845(b), that is, a combination of parts designed and intended for use in converting a weapon into a machinegun, and did aid and abet each other in commission of the aforementioned offense;

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(o), 924(a)(2) and 2.

**COUNT 13**

## THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

That on or about May 2, 2024, in the District of South Carolina, the Defendants, **WILLIAM OMAR HEYWARD, a/k/a “O,”** and **ISHMAEL ALLEN RIVERS, a/k/a “ISH,”** knowingly received and possessed a firearm, described as a machinegun, not registered to them in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record, and did aid and abet each other in commission of the aforementioned offense;

In violation of Title 26, United States Code, Sections 5841, 5861(d), and 5871, and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

**COUNT 14**

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

That on or about May 2, 2024, in the District of South Carolina, the Defendants, **WILLIAM OMAR HEYWARD, a/k/a “O,”** and **ISHMAEL ALLEN RIVERS, a/k/a “ISH,”** knowingly and unlawfully transferred a firearm, that is, a machinegun, in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 5861(d), that is, the firearm was not registered to them in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record, and did aid and abet each other in commission of the aforementioned offense;

In violation of Title 26, United States Code, Sections 5861(d), 5812, 5861(e), and 5871 and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.



**NOTICE OF SENTENCING ENHANCEMENT**

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

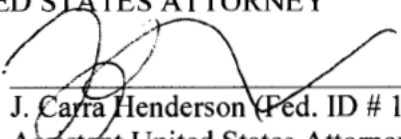
1. Prior to committing the offenses charged in this Indictment, the Defendant, **WILLIAM OMAR HEYWARD, a/k/a "O,"** had been convicted in Federal Court for the District of South Carolina, Case Number 9:04-cr-00428, of distribution of a quantity of cocaine base and possession with intent to distribute 5 grams or more of cocaine base and a quantity of cocaine, both serious drug felonies, and possession of a firearm during and in relation to and in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, a serious violent felony, all of which has become final. For this conviction, the Defendant, **WILLIAM OMAR HEYWARD, a/k/a "O,"** served more than 12 months in prison. As a result, the Defendant, **WILLIAM OMAR HEYWARD, a/k/a "O,"** is subject to increased punishment for committing the offenses charged in Counts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8 of this Indictment under Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(A), 841(b)(1)(B), and 851.

A TRUE BILL

FOREPERSON

BRYAN P. STIRLING  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

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RECORD OF GRAND JURY BALLOT

c/ 9:25-cr-692

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA v. WILLIAM OMAR HEYWARD, JR., et al  
(SEALED UNTIL FURTHER ORDER OF THE COURT)