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**DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL'S RESPONSE TO DISPLAY AND
PUBLICATION OF DEPUTY BILL JONES AND MIKE BROWN CRIME
SCENE DEATH PHOTOS**

Kingston, Tennessee (August 30, 2012) -- My office, as well as the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, has received numerous calls from concerned individuals about the posting on *Facebook* by at least one individual of photographs of the dead bodies of Roane County Deputy Bill Jones and Mike Brown that were taken as part of the investigation of the scene where they were shot and killed by the Houston brothers. Evidently the photos are also posted on a sign located on the Houston property in Roane County. Under Tennessee state statute the contents of a TBI investigative file are strictly confidential. However, when these photos were introduced by both of the special prosecutors and the defense attorneys during any of the three criminal trials in Roane County or by the plaintiff's attorney during the civil trial in Cumberland County, they then became public record unless the file was ordered sealed by the presiding judge.

Additionally, these photos and the entire contents of the TBI investigative file were provided to Rocky and Leon Houston as part of the mandatory 'discovery' process during the criminal trials. Therefore, it is assumed that the Houstons, if they are in fact the disseminators of these photos, are in lawful possession of them. Individuals other than the Houstons who come into possession of the photos or the contents of the TBI file, if they do so other than through a lawful request, may be in violation of the confidentiality law. Any violation of the TBI confidentiality statute is a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$50 and up to thirty (30) days in jail.

"I have talked to TBI about this matter and have informed Assistant District Attorney Ken Irvine (the special prosecutor who tried two of the criminal cases) about this issue. We have also contacted the Jones and Brown families so that they would know about the situation before stumbling across the photos on the Internet," District Attorney General Russell Johnson said. "Members of my office have contacted *Facebook* in an attempt to have the images removed." Evidently, according to Roane County Clerk Kim Nelson, none of the judges in the criminal cases ordered the files sealed and the last person to access the file and the photographs was the plaintiff's attorney for Mike Brown's estate. The civil case took place in Cumberland County after a change of venue was granted.

General Johnson stated that he has requested TBI to assist in an investigation to determine if there has been any violation of criminal laws. "Regardless of whether this is a crime or not, it is the mother of all understatement to say that the posting of the pictures on *Facebook* is in the poorest of taste. Furthermore, it goes without saying that any public display on their own property of these photos in whatever manner by the Houstons is despicable and certainly runs counter to the Houston's claims of innocence of the intentional homicides of Bill Jones and Mike Brown."

"Over two months ago," Johnson continued, "Rocky Houston was provided the opportunity (after Rocky had actually made the written request) to meet with the Roane County Grand Jury to testify about his 'conspiracy theories' involving local government officials. Rocky flat out failed to show or produce any evidence. That is because he has none. Instead of pursuing his complaints through the legal system he chose to display these sensitive and dehumanizing photos on a 'billboard' on the Houston property speaking volumes about Rocky's character."

Johnson stated that he sympathizes with the Jones and Brown families in having to endure this latest 'attack' on the memory of their deceased family members.

END OF RELEASE