

Five charged in escape attempt from county jail

Staff Report

A federal grand jury charged four men and a woman in a failed escape attempt from the Hamilton County Jail.

Rejon Taylor, Joey Marshall, Adijah Ashanti Uhuru, Steven Szabo and Reba Taylor are charged with conspiracy to escape. Mr. Taylor, Mr. Marshall and Mr. Uhuru are charged with attempting to escape, while Mr. Szabo and Ms. Taylor are charged with assisting in an escape attempt.

According to court records, the four men made ropes from bed sheets and stored them with pipes and jail-fashioned knives in the ceiling of the facility.

On April 14, Mr. Uhuru and Mr. Szabo assaulted a corrections officer in an attempt to take his keys and radio. At the same time, Ms. Taylor rented a van in Atlanta and drove to Chattanooga to provide transportation for the escaping men, reports said.

Mr. Taylor and Mr. Marshall were in jail accused of kidnapping and killing an Atlanta restaurant owner in 2003.

Mr. Marshall has agreed to plead guilty, but Mr. Taylor pleaded not guilty. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty against Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Uhuru was being held on charges of being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm and robbery, while Mr. Szabo was held on state charges of first-degree murder for allegedly killing a Chattanooga woman and dumping her body in the Tennessee River.

Records show the defendants had been planning the escape since at least December 2005, five months before they put their plan into action.

Mr. Taylor is scheduled to be in court Thursday for an arraignment and detention hearing. NOTE: also ran in the Metro/NG editions.