

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA  
NORTHERN DIVISION

AUBREY GOODWIN,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Civil Action No. 2:09cv60-WHA
	)	(WO)
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

**ORDER**

On January 14, 2009, the petitioner, Aubrey Goodwin, filed a document with this court (Doc. No. 1) wherein he challenges the validity of his convictions and sentence for unlawful distribution of crack cocaine. A review of the petitioner’s allegations, to the extent they are understood by this court, indicates that he seeks relief that is appropriate only under the remedy provided by 28 U.S.C. § 2255. *See Wofford v. Scott*, 177 F.3d 1236, 1244 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1999). “Federal courts have long recognized that they have an obligation to look behind the label of a motion filed by a *pro se* inmate and determine whether the motion is, in effect, cognizable under a different remedial statutory framework.” *United States v. Jordan*, 915 F.2d 622, 624-25 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1990). Accordingly, this court concludes that the petitioner’s pleading (Doc. No. 1) should be construed as a motion to vacate, set aside, or correct sentence pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255.

In light of the foregoing, and in accordance with *Castro v. United States*, 540 U.S.

375 (2003), **the court hereby advises the petitioner of its intention to re-characterize his pleading as a § 2255 motion.** The court **cautions** the petitioner that such re-characterization will render this motion and any subsequent § 2255 motion filed with this court susceptible to each of the procedural limitations imposed upon § 2255 motions. Specifically, the petitioner is cautioned that the instant motion and any subsequent § 2255 motion shall be subject to the one-year period of limitation and the successive petition bar applicable to post-conviction motions.<sup>1</sup>

It is further

**ORDERED that on or before February 12, 2009, the petitioner shall advise this court** whether he seeks to:

1. Proceed before this court under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 on the claims presented in his pleading (Doc. No. 1) filed on January 14, 2009;

2. Amend his pleading to assert any additional claims under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 on which he wishes to challenge the convictions and sentence imposed upon him by this court;  
or

3. Dismiss his pleading.

**The petitioner is advised that if he fails to file a response in compliance with this**

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<sup>1</sup>“A 1-year period of limitation shall apply to a motion under this section.” 28 U.S.C. § 2255 ¶6. Further, Title 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3)(A) requires that “[b]efore a second or successive [28 U.S.C. § 2255 motion] ... is filed in the district court, the applicant shall move in the appropriate court of appeals for an order authorizing the district court to consider the application.” 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3)(A).

