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USAID INVESTIGATION RESULTS IN PLEA AGREEMENT BY VIRGINIA FIRM TO PAY \$4.2 MILLION CRIMINAL FINE

Washington, D.C. - American International Contractors, Inc. (AICI), a Virginia based company, has pled guilty to participating in a criminal conspiracy to rig bids on a construction contract funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), in Egypt, Everett L. Mosley, USAID's acting Inspector General, announced today.

As part of its plea agreement with the Department of Justice, Antitrust Division, AICI agreed to pay a criminal fine in the amount of \$4.2 million and \$500,000 restitution.

The one-count felony judgement was entered in the U.S. District Court in Birmingham, Alabama. It charged AICI with participating in a conspiracy to suppress and eliminate competition on the USAID contract in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act.

Today's action is the second arising out of an on-going grand jury investigation in the Northern District of Alabama conducted by the Justice Department's Antitrust Division, Atlanta Field Office, working in concert with the USAID Office of the Inspector General.

"This guilty plea by AICI and the cooperation we are receiving in the on-going investigation have significantly advanced our ability to identify the remaining co-conspirators and strengthened our resolve to see them prosecuted," Mosley said. "This case, along with last month's conviction of Philipp Holzmann, AG, also demonstrates our commitment to ferreting out fraud and ensuring the integrity of the foreign assistance programs. Program integrity is essential to maintain public support for the foreign assistance program in the United States."

The value of the USAID-funded contract in this case is \$107 million. As part of the conspiracy, AICI received a multi-million dollar payment for not bidding on the contract, Mosley said.

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