



U.S. Department of Justice

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Eastern District of Michigan**

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For Immediate Release:

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February 28, 2008

EVENT: Indictment

Defendant: Thomas Ross

**BUREAU OF PRISONS EMPLOYEE INDICTED FOR ACCEPTING BRIBES
IN EXCHANGE FOR BRINGING CONTRABAND INTO PRISON**

A federal Grand Jury in Detroit, Michigan has returned an indictment against a United States Bureau of Prisons employee for accepting bribes in return for bringing contraband into the federal correctional institution at Milan, Michigan, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Charged in the Indictment is Thomas Ross, 42, of Romulus a Recreational Specialist employed by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Edward Diner, Special Agent in Charge of the Chicago Field Office, Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General.

The indictment charges that Ross received payments for bringing contraband into the correctional institution between August, 2005 and May, 2007, for use by inmates at the institution, in violation of his official duty.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, “Today’s charges allege not only a very serious breach of trust, but significant criminal violations as well. Conduct such as the defendant’s in this case presents substantial security issues because it involves an employee at a federal correctional institution who allegedly accepted bribes in exchange for supplying members of the prison population with contraband. The Department of Justice simply will not tolerate corruption within its own ranks – we will prosecute aggressively as warranted.”

Under the statute, Ross faces up to 15 years’ imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government’s burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case was investigated by the Detroit Area Office of the Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General.