



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Susan Plochinski (313) 226-9193
Dawn Clenney -FBI (313) 237-4206

March 3, 2006

EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Peter D. Tocco, et al

RACKETEERING INDICTMENT UNSEALED

A thirteen-count federal grand jury indictment was unsealed today, charging fifteen individuals with various crimes, including conspiracy to commit racketeering, conducting an illegal gambling business involved in sports bookmaking, money laundering, and collection of credit by extortionate means, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced. The Detroit grand jury returned the indictment on March 1, 2006. The names of the defendants and their charges are listed on the attached chart.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Daniel D. Roberts, FBI Special Agent in Charge.

The indictment alleges that between January 1998 and the date of the indictment, two related criminal enterprises operated in the Eastern District of Michigan, the

purposes of which included the management of a large-scale, ongoing sports-bookmaking operation, and the collection of unlawful debts associated with that operation. In connection with these activities, it is alleged that the defendants committed multiple crimes, including conspiring to conduct an illegal gambling business, laundering money in order to promote the unlawful activity and conceal the ownership of illegal proceeds, interstate travel in aid of racketeering, and unlawful collection of gambling debts through the use of express and implicit threats of violence.

Fourteen of the charged defendants listed on the indictment were arrested in the Metropolitan Detroit area and arraigned in federal court today. The fifteenth individual, from Glen Ellyn, Illinois was arrested and will appear in Federal District Court in Illinois.

“These charges stem from a long-term and continuing investigation of organized crime in Metropolitan Detroit, including the court-ordered wiretapping of several telephones associated with the criminal enterprises alleged in the indictment. They reflect our continuing commitment to investigating and dismantling organized crime operations within our jurisdiction,” U.S. Attorney Murphy said. “In addition, through this indictment, as well as through civil means, we will aggressively seek the forfeiture of all proceeds of defendants’ illegal conduct.”

Daniel D. Roberts, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Detroit, Michigan, stated “Organized crime has been and remains a top priority of the FBI and the activities of any continuing criminal enterprise will be rigorously pursued. These arrests today reflect many years of hard work and dedication by the agents who worked on this case as this investigation continues.”

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.

The case was investigated by special agents of the FBI, with valuable assistance from the Michigan State Police and the Fraser Police Department.

<u>Organized Crime Indictment Unsealed</u>		
Defendants and Charges		
DEFENDANT	CHARGES	INDICTMENT COUNT(S)
Defendant 1: PETER DOMINIC TOCCO, age 55, of Troy, Michigan	18 U.S.C. § 1962 (c) (Rico [Racketeering] Conspiracy)	1 and 2
	18 U.S.C. § 371 (Conspiracy to Conduct an Illegal Gambling Business, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §1955)	3
	18 U.S.C. §§ 1956(a)(1)(A)(i) and B(i) and 2 (Money Laundering, Aiding And Abetting)	4, 5 and 6
	18 U.S.C. §§ 1956(a)(1)(A)(i) and (B)(ii) and 2 (Money Laundering, Aiding And Abetting)	7
	18 U.S.C. § 894 (Collection of Extension of Credit By Extortionate Means)	8 and 9

Organized Crime Indictment Unsealed

Defendants and Charges

DEFENDANT	CHARGES	INDICTMENT COUNT(S)
	18 U.S.C. §§ 1952 and 2 (Interstate Travel In Aid Of Racketeering)	10 and 11
	18 U.S.C. §1963(a)(3) (Forfeiture)	12
	18 U.S.C. §§ 1963(m) and 21 U.S.C. § 853(p) (Forfeiture)	13

Organized Crime Indictment Unsealed

Defendants and Charges

DEFENDANT	CHARGES	INDICTMENT COUNT(S)
Defendant 2: PETER JOSEPH MESSINA, age 50, of Roseville, Michigan	18 U.S.C. § 1962 (c) (Rico [Racketeering] Conspiracy	1 and 2
	18 U.S.C. § 371 (Conspiracy to Conduct an Illegal Gambling Business, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §1955)	3
	18 U.S.C. §§ 1956(a)(1)(A)(i) and B(i) and 2 (Money Laundering, Aiding And Abetting)	4, 5 and 6
	18 U.S.C. §§ 1956(a)(1)(A)(i) and (B)(ii) and 2 (Money Laundering, Aiding And Abetting)	7
	18 U.S.C. § 894 (Collection of Extension of Credit By Extortionate Means)	8
	18 U.S.C. § 1963(a)(3) (Forfeiture)	12
	18 U.S.C. §§ 1963(m) and 21 U.S.C. § 853 (p) (Forfeiture)	13

Organized Crime Indictment Unsealed

Defendants and Charges

DEFENDANT	CHARGES	INDICTMENT COUNT(S)
Defendant 3: DAVID JOHN ACETO, age 48, of Roseville, Michigan	18 U.S.C. § 1962 (c) (Rico [Racketeering] Conspiracy)	1 and 2
	18 U.S.C. § 371 (Conspiracy to Conduct an Illegal Gambling Business, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §1955)	3
	18 U.S.C. §§ 1956(a)(1)(A)(i) and B(i) and 2 (Money Laundering, Aiding And Abetting)	4 and 5
	18 U.S.C. §§ 1956(a)(1)(A)(i) and (B)(ii) and 2 (Money Laundering, Aiding And Abetting)	7
	18 U.S.C § 894 (Collection of Extension of Credit By Extortionate Means)	9
	18 U.S.C. § 1963(a)(3) (Forfeiture)	12
	18 U.S.C. §§ 1963(m) and 21 U.S.C. § 853 (p) (Forfeiture)	13
Defendant 4: THOMAS JAMES MACKEY,	18 U.S.C. § 1962 © (Rico [Racketeering] Conspiracy)	1 and 2

age 49, of Clinton Township,
Michigan

Organized Crime Indictment Unsealed

Defendants and Charges

DEFENDANT	CHARGES	INDICTMENT COUNT(S)
	18 U.S.C. § 371 (Conspiracy to Conduct an Illegal Gambling Business, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §1955)	3
	18 U.S.C. § 894 (Collection of Extension of Credit By Extortionate Means)	8
	18 U.S.C. § 1963(a)(3) (Forfeiture)	12
	18 U.S.C. §§ 1963(m) and 21 U.S.C. § 853 (p) (Forfeiture)	13
Defendant 5: WAYNE JOSEPH KASSAB, age 49, of Sterling Heights, Michigan	18 U.S.C. § 1962 © (Rico [Racketeering] Conspiracy)	1
	18 U.S.C. § 371 (Conspiracy to Conduct an Illegal Gambling Business, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §1955)	3
	18 U.S.C. § 894 (Collection of Extension of Credit By Extortionate Means)	8
	18 U.S.C. § 1963(a)(3) (Forfeiture)	12
	18 U.S.C. §§ 1963(m) and 21 U.S.C. § 853 (p) (Forfeiture)	13

Organized Crime Indictment Unsealed

Defendants and Charges

DEFENDANT	CHARGES	INDICTMENT COUNT(S)
Defendant 6: JOHN WILLIAM MANETTAS, age 51, of Harrison Township, Michigan	18 U.S.C. § 1962 © (Rico [Racketeering] Conspiracy)	1
	18 U.S.C. § 371 (Conspiracy to Conduct an Illegal Gambling Business, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §1955)	3
	18 U.S.C. § 1963(a)(3) (Forfeiture)	12
	18 U.S.C. §§ 1963(m) and 21 U.S.C. § 853 (p) (Forfeiture)	13
Defendant 7: DOMINIC CORRADO, age 35, of Glen Ellyn, Illinois	18 U.S.C. § 1962 © (Rico [Racketeering] Conspiracy)	2
	18 U.S.C. § 371 (Conspiracy to Conduct an Illegal Gambling Business, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §1955)	3
	18 U.S.C. §§ 1952 and 2 (Interstate Travel In Aid of Racketeering)	10 and 11
Defendant 8: JACK V. GIACALONE, age 55, of West Bloomfield, Michigan	18 U.S.C. § 1962 © (Rico [Racketeering]) Conspiracy	2

Organized Crime Indictment Unsealed

Defendants and Charges

DEFENDANT	CHARGES	INDICTMENT COUNT(S)
	18 U.S.C. § 894 (Collection of Credit by Extortionate Means)	9
Defendant 9: RONALD S. YOUROFSKY, age 64, of Warren, Michigan	18 U.S.C. § 371 (Conspiracy to Conduct an Illegal Gambling Business, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §1955)	3
Defendant 10: ALAN H. RUSSELL, age 54, of Sterling Heights, Michigan	18 U.S.C. § 371 (Conspiracy to Conduct an Illegal Gambling Business, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §1955)	3
	18 U.S.C. §§ 1956(a)(1)(A)(i) and (B)(ii) and 2 (Money Laundering, Aiding And Abetting)	7
Defendant 11: VINCENZO BRONZINO, age 40, of Macomb, Michigan	18 U.S.C. §§ 1956(a)(1)(A)(i) and (B)(ii) and 2 (Money Laundering, Aiding And Abetting)	7
Defendant 12: JOSEPH MESSINA, age 48, of Macomb, Michigan	18 U.S.C. § 371 (Conspiracy to Conduct an Illegal Gambling Business, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §1955)	3
Defendant 13: VIRGINIA NAVA, age 36, of Roseville, Michigan (sister of Defendant 12, Joseph Messina)	18 U.S.C. § 371 (Conspiracy to Conduct an Illegal Gambling Business, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §1955)	3

Organized Crime Indictment Unsealed

Defendants and Charges

DEFENDANT	CHARGES	INDICTMENT COUNT(S)
Defendant 14: WILLIAM JOHN MANETTAS, age 27, of St. Clair Shores, Michigan	18 U.S.C. § 371 (Conspiracy to Conduct an Illegal Gambling Business, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §1955)	3
Defendant 15: PETER TOCCO (Son of Defendant 1, Peter Dominic Tocco), age 27, of Macomb, Michigan	18 U.S.C. § 371 (Conspiracy to Conduct an Illegal Gambling Business, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §1955)	3



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Greg Palmore - ICE - (313) 446-3745

March 8, 2006

EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Maksimenko

**Livonia Man Pleads Guilty to Crimes Relating to Involuntary Servitude
of Eastern European Women at Detroit Area Strip Clubs**

A Livonia man pleaded guilty today to multiple unlawful conspiracies, including deprivation of civil rights by involuntary servitude, illegal transportation and harboring of aliens, and money laundering, in connection with a scheme to coerce Eastern European women to work as strippers in various Metro-Detroit area clubs, United States Attorney, Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Aleksandr Maksimenko, 26, pleaded guilty before United States District Judge Victoria A. Roberts.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Wan J. Kim, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, Brian M. Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Daniel D. Roberts, Special Agent In Charge of the Detroit Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Maksimenko is a naturalized U.S. citizen, born in Ukraine, who resided in Livonia,

Michigan at the time of his arrest in mid-February 2005. Maksimenko is one of the ring-leaders in a conspiracy to force Eastern European women to work as exotic dancers in Detroit area strip clubs. One of the other ring-leaders of the trafficking scheme, Michail Aronov, a Lithuanian citizen from the Chicago area, pled guilty to similar charges on September 8, 2005.

"The defendants in this case took advantage of several Eastern European women by enticing them to come to the United States and then holding them in bondage for commercial and sexual exploitation," said U.S. Attorney Stephen J. Murphy. "The courage shown by two of these women in escaping and bringing their condition to the attention of law enforcement brought an end to their involuntary servitude and to the violence and intimidation perpetrated by the defendants. Criminal operations involving human trafficking, such as this one, will be pursued with the greatest vigor by my office."

Wan J. Kim, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, said: "With greed as their sole motivation, and devoid of any regard for human dignity, these traffickers exploited their victims, all of whom were vulnerable women who were subjected to an existence of misery. Today's guilty plea demonstrates our commitment to protect the civil rights of trafficking victims. The Department of Justice will continue to pursue and prosecute all those who would attempt to profit at the expense of another's freedom."

"These criminals preyed upon the hopes and dreams of these victims who came to the U.S. for the sole purpose of bettering their lot in life, only to be forced into a life of enslavement, subjected to sexual exploitation, physical violence, and isolation said Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in Detroit. "ICE will continue to vigorously pursue those organizations that callously trade in human cargo, with no regard for the health or dignity of these women, all while reaping the profits from their suffering."

Maksimenko admitted today that he and his business partners, including Aronov, trafficked in Eastern European women and used the guise of a legitimate business – Beauty Search, Inc. – to cover their criminal conduct. Maksimenko admitted that he and his partners smuggled women into the United States and compelled them through threats and coercion to work as dancers in strip clubs. To maintain compliance, Maksimenko and his partners took a

number of steps, including confiscating the dancers' passports; imposing large debts on them; enforcing rules designed to isolate the dancers from potential rescuers through interrogations, monetary penalties, physical violence and threats; searching the dancers' apartments; and threatening to turn the dancers in to authorities because of their illegal immigrant status. According to Aronov's plea agreement, Maksimenko forced the dancers to engage in non-consensual sexual relations with him, by intimidating and threatening them with arrest and deportation and by reminding them that they owed him a debt for employing them.

Maksimenko also admitted in court today that he and others engaged in various efforts designed to obstruct the government's investigation and prosecution. In anticipation of their arrest on federal charges in February 2005, Maksimenko and Aronov planted passports of four of the dancers in their apartments in order to create the false impression that the dancers had retained access to their identity and travel documents, and were therefore free to leave if they so chose. Maksimenko and Aronov also confiscated and burned financial ledgers kept by two of the dancers, fearing that the ledgers could incriminate the co-conspirators. Following his arrest, Maksimenko directed his associates to destroy evidence and to threaten a victim-witness in order to convince her to hide until the conclusion of Maksimenko's trial.

Maksimenko remains in custody pending his sentencing. Although Maksimenko faces a statutory maximum sentence of up to forty years in prison, the parties agreed that under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, an appropriate sentence for Maksimenko is 12½ to approximately 22 years in prison. The specific sentence within this range will be determined by the Court following a sentencing hearing to determine whether Maksimenko sexually abused any of the dancers. The parties further agreed that the Court may enter an order of restitution and a forfeiture money judgment of at least \$957,050 against Maksimenko, who has agreed to cooperate in the government's continuing investigation and prosecution of others, and who could receive a sentence reduction as a result.

The Court set the sentencing date for July 27, 2006.

With today's plea, seven people have now been convicted of crimes associated with this trafficking conspiracy. Evgeniy Prokopenko and Alexander Bondarenko, two Ukrainian citizens

residing in Brooklyn, NY, pled guilty to visa fraud on September 9, 2005, admitting that they entered into sham marriages in 2004 with two of the dancers in order to permit the dancers to gain entry into the United States. On November 1, 2005, Anna Gonikman-Starchenko, a Ukrainian citizen living in the Detroit metro area, pled guilty to obstruction-related charges stemming from actions taken following the arrests of Maksimenko and Aronov. On November 3, 2005, Niki Papoutsaki, a Greek citizen living in the Detroit metro area, pled guilty to misprision of a felony in connection with obstruction-related activity. Finally, on February 14, 2006, Valentina Maksimenko, a naturalized U.S. citizen residing in the Chicago area, pled guilty to a conspiracy to obstruct justice during the course of the federal investigation.

The government's investigation and prosecution of others involved in the trafficking scheme is continuing. On February 24, 2006, an eighth defendant, Duay Jado, a Greek citizen residing in the Chicago area, was arrested on a complaint charging him with Extortionate Collection of Extension of Credit and Use of Fire in Commission of Felony. According to the affidavit supporting the complaint and other public court records, it is alleged that following the escape of one of the dancers in February 2004, Maksimenko located the dancer, then paid Jado to set the car of the dancer's sister on fire in retaliation for the dancer's escape, for failing to repay an outstanding debt allegedly owed to Maksimenko and Aronov, and to send a message to the other dancers not to follow in her footsteps.

A complaint is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. Trial cannot be held on felony charges in a complaint. When the investigation is completed, a determination will be made whether to seek a felony indictment.

The case is being investigated by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, and the State Department Diplomatic Security Service. Assistant United States Attorney Mark Chutkow and Lou de Baca, Senior Litigation Counsel at the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Criminal Section, are prosecuting the case. Peter Ziedas, Assistant United States Attorney, is handling the asset forfeiture part of the case.



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United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

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For Immediate Release:

Contact: Susan Plochinski (313) 226-9193

March 9, 2006

EVENT: Indictment

Defendant: Verniamin Gonikman et al

**Ukrainian Man and Chicago Man Indicted for Crimes Relating to
Involuntary Servitude of Eastern European Women at Detroit Area Strip Clubs**

Veniamin Gonikman, age 51, of Kiev, Ukraine, and Duay Jado, age 27, a Greek citizen residing in Skokie, Illinois area, were indicted today by a federal grand jury in Detroit for conspiring to force Eastern European women to work as exotic dancers in Detroit area strip clubs, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy and Assistant Attorney General Wan J. Kim announced.

“We intend to pursue the prosecution of this human trafficking operation wherever the evidence leads,” said U.S. Attorney Murphy. “Today’s indictment is an indicator of our resolve on this matter.”

Gonikman, who is alleged to be one of the partners in “Beauty Search, Inc.,” was charged in twenty counts of the indictment with involuntary servitude, immigration and money laundering conspiracies, as well as counts of forced labor, human trafficking, and document servitude. The government is also seeking to forfeit over \$1 million for Gonikman’s role in the underlying crimes.

In addition to the involuntary servitude conspiracy, the grand jury indicted Jado, a Greek citizen residing in the Chicago, Illinois, area, on counts of extortionate collection of extension of credit and use of fire in the commission of a felony. According to the indictment and other court papers, in the Spring of 2004, following the escape of one of the dancers, Jado set the car of the dancer's sister on fire in retaliation for the dancer's escape and for failing to repay an outstanding debt allegedly owed to the Beauty Search, Inc. partners.

Today's indictments follow on the heels of a guilty plea yesterday by one of the ring-leaders of the trafficking scheme, Aleksandr Maksimenko, of Livonia, Michigan, to conspiring to violate the civil rights of the dancers through involuntary servitude, as well as immigration and money laundering conspiracies. Another partner of Beauty Search, Inc., Michail Aronov, a Lithuanian citizen from the Chicago area, pled guilty to similar charges on September 8, 2005. In addition to Maksimenko and Aronov, five other persons have pled guilty to offenses associated with the trafficking scheme, including Evgeniy Prokopenko and Alexander Bondarenko, two Ukrainian citizens residing in Brooklyn, NY, who pled guilty to visa fraud on September 9, 2005, admitting that they entered into sham marriages in 2004 with two of the dancers in order to permit the dancers to gain entry into the United States. On November 1, 2005, Anna Gonikman-Starchenko, a Ukrainian citizen living in the Detroit metro area, pled guilty to obstruction-related charges stemming from actions taken following the arrests of Maksimenko and Aronov. On November 3, 2005, Niki Papoutsaki, a Greek citizen living in the Detroit metro area, pled guilty to misprision of a felony in connection with obstruction-related activity. Finally, on February 14, 2006, Valentina Maksimenko, a naturalized U.S. citizen residing in the Chicago area, pled guilty to a conspiracy to obstruct justice during the course of the federal investigation.

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.

The case is being investigated by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, and the State Department Diplomatic Security Service. Assistant United States Attorney Mark Chutkow and Lou de Baca, Senior Litigation Counsel at the Department of Justice, Civil Rights

Division, Criminal Section, are prosecuting the case. Peter Ziedas, Assistant United States Attorney is handling the asset forfeiture part of the case.



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Contact: Susan Plochinski (313) 226-9193
Greg Palmore - ICE (313) 446-3745

March 9, 2006

EVENT: Conviction

Defendant: Joseph Djoumessi and Evelyn Djoumessi

CAMEROONIAN COUPLE CONVICTED ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING CHARGES

Two Cameroonian nationals, permanent resident aliens, were convicted of involuntary servitude and related charges for forcing a young girl from Cameroon to perform child care and domestic chores through the use of threats and beatings, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy and Assistant Attorney General Wan J. Kim, of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice announced.

The Honorable Arthur J. Tarnow, United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, found defendant Joseph Djoumessi guilty of conspiracy, involuntary servitude, and harboring for financial gain.

A jury convicted Evelyn Djoumessi of conspiracy, and involuntary servitude. She was acquitted of one count of harboring the girl for financial gain.

According to the evidence produced at trial, between October 1996 and February 2000, the Djoumessi's brought the girl into the United States illegally. During the time that the girl lived in their home, they forced her to care for their children and perform household chores

without pay by beating and threatening her. They also limited her contact with the outside world and did not permit her to attend school.

The prosecution of individuals involved in human trafficking is a top priority of the Justice Department. Since 2001, the Justice Department has charged more than 150 human traffickers and secured convictions for 109 defendants, nearly twice the number convicted during the previous four years.

"Imprisoning, beating, and compelling the involuntary servitude of an innocent teenager is among the most heinous of crimes. This conviction underscores the seriousness with which this Office views all crimes of human trafficking," said Stephen J. Murphy, Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan.

"Involuntary servitude is modern-day slavery," said Wan J. Kim, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. "As long as these types of offenses continue to exist in our society, the Justice Department will vigorously prosecute those who engage in the trafficking of human beings."

"It is a basic and fundamental human right to be free, and no child should ever be forced to live in a world of fear and involuntary servitude," said Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Special Agent in Charge Brian M. Moskowitz. "Today's indictment is a testament to our solemn commitment to protect those who cannot protect themselves. While we cannot restore someone's childhood, we can bring their abusers to justice."

The Djoumessi's each face a maximum sentence of 20 years' imprisonment, three years' supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. They could also be ordered to make restitution to the victim. Sentencing has been set for June 8, 2006.

The case was jointly prosecuted by Gary Felder, Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan and Jacqueline Spratt from the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. The case was investigated by agents of the United States Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.



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United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

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For Immediate Release:

Contact: Susan Plochinski (313) 226-9193

March 13, 2006

EVENT: Sentencing

Defendant: Michael Bratisax

**NEW YORK MAN SENTENCED FOR VIOLATING THE
CIVIL RIGHTS OF MEMBERS OF ISLAMIC CENTER OF AMERICA**

Michael Bratisax, a 46-year-old resident of Pleasantville, New York, was sentenced today for violating the civil rights of members from the Islamic Center of America in Detroit, Michigan, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Bratisax was sentenced in United States District Court by Chief Judge Bernard A. Friedman to three years of probation with several specific conditions. The specific conditions of probation, beyond the general terms of probation, consisted of the following:

- ☐ Completion of an anger management program;
- ☐ Completion of a diversity class;
- ☐ No consumption of alcoholic beverages;
- ☐ No use of Electronic mail (E-mail) to communicate with strangers or unknown persons;
- ☐ Must create a web site devoted to diversity and anger management, and
- ☐ Must submit to random drug and alcohol usage testing.

Bratisax must also pay a \$25.00 Special Assessment.

According to the indictment, Michael Bratisax sent threatening e-mails from his home computer in New York state to the Islamic Center of America, with the intent to threaten Muslims in the free exercise of their religion. The e-mails threatened to kill Muslims in response to events in the Middle East. Bratisax pleaded guilty to the misdemeanour offense on November 9, 2005, carrying a maximum penalty of one year in prison.

The indictment resulted from an investigation by FBI, the United States Attorney's Office, and the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice. "This sentence demonstrates that there will be consequences for anyone who threatens other Americans because of the free to exercise their religious beliefs. Anyone hoping to use the veil of the Internet to send threatening messages should be forewarned that they will be caught," said United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy.

Assistant Attorney General Wan J. Kim said, "Threats against Muslims, Arabs, or any other group, with the intent to interfere with their right to exercise their religion, can not and will not be tolerated in a free society. Neither events in the Middle East nor anywhere else in the world justifies this hateful behaviour, as all Americans are treated equally under the law, and are entitled to the full protection of our civil rights laws."

The Justice Department has investigated over 700 bias-motivated incidents since September 11, 2001, involving violence or threats against individuals perceived to be Muslim or of Arab, Middle Eastern, or South Asian origin. Federal convictions have been obtained in 31 such cases. Additionally, state and local authorities have brought more than 150 criminal prosecutions, sometimes with assistance from the Department of Justice.



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United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan



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For Immediate Release:

Contact: Susan Plochinski (313) 226-9193
Vera Fedorak - ATF - (313) 259-7917

March 10, 2006

EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Arone McConer

**DETROIT MAN CONVICTED
ON FEDERAL FIREARMS AND NARCOTICS CHARGES**

A 37-year-old Detroit man was found guilty on March 9, 2006, by a federal jury in Detroit on charges of possession with intent to distribute cocaine base, possession with intent to distribute marijuana and possessing a firearm in connection with drug trafficking offenses, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Valerie J. Goddard, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Found guilty was Arone McConer a/k/a Gary Knaff. He was also convicted of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The jury deliberated for less than two hours before returning the verdict, concluding a five day trial before United States District Judge Nancy G. Edmunds.

The evidence presented at trial showed that McConer was selling crack cocaine and marijuana out of a vacant house on Lawrence street in Detroit. A search warrant executed at the premises on January 19, 2005 by a narcotics unit of the Detroit Police Department yielded 368 grams of marijuana, packaged for distribution and sale, 27.54 grams of cocaine base, as well as a Colt .38 caliber revolver. Narcotics paraphernalia, including digital scales and packaging materials was also recovered. Because of prior felony convictions, McConer was prohibited from possessing any firearms.

“This case clearly demonstrates my office’s commitment to aggressively prosecute any individuals engaged in drug trafficking in the Eastern District of Michigan, particularly armed felons,” United States Attorney Murphy said.

“Working closely with our state and local partners, the Project Safe Neighborhood initiative helps make our neighborhoods safer by getting armed drug dealers and other violent criminals with firearms off our streets. ATF is proud to be a partner in this important initiative,” SAC Goddard said.

Murphy commended the work of the agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Detroit Police in the investigation.

A sentencing date has been set for June 8, 2006. McConer faces a mandatory minimum of 10 years imprisonment.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Susan E. Gillooly.



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United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

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For Immediate Release:

Contact: Susan Plochinski (313) 226-9193
Vera Fedorak - ATF - (313) 259-7917

March 14, 2006

EVENT: Sentenced

Defendant: Charles Highgate

DEFENDANT SENTENCED AS CAREER OFFENDER IN PSN CASE

A Detroit resident was sentenced today to 360 months imprisonment for charges involving felon in possession of a firearm, possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, possession with intent to distribute more than five grams of cocaine base, and possession with intent to distribute heroin, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today. Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Valerie J. Goddard, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Charles Highgate, 27, of Detroit, was sentenced as a career offender by United States District Judge John Corbett O'Meara.

On September 12, 2005, a jury found Highgate guilty of all charges. The charges arose following an investigation and execution of a search warrant at a house in Detroit by members of the Detroit Police Narcotics Squad. During the execution of the search warrant, a Detroit Narcotics Officer located Defendant in the rear of the premises secreting a gun and

plastic bag (containing both cocaine and heroin) underneath a tire.

Highgate has a prior criminal history which includes prior felony convictions for possession with intent to deliver controlled substances. Defendant was on probation at the time of the offense.

“The lengthy sentences offenders receive under the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative are aimed at discouraging felons from possessing firearms,” stated U.S. Attorney Murphy. “Project Safe Neighborhoods targets career offenders like Mr. Highgate in an effort to make our communities safer.”

“Repeat and violent offenders are a top priority,” said SAC Goddard. “The Federal firearms laws are meant to protect the public by imposing lengthy prison sentences for those individuals who have previous felony convictions and have proven, through their own actions, that they cannot own or possess a firearm responsibly,” she added

The case was the result of multi-agency cooperation between the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Detroit Police Department Narcotics Section, and the Wayne County Prosecutors Office. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Terrence R. Haugabook.



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561*



For Immediate Release:

Contact: Susan Plochinski (313) 226-9193
Vera Fedorak - ATF - (313) 259-7917

March 15, 2006

EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Keith E. Edgeron

DEFENDANT PLEADS TO GUN AND DRUG CHARGES

Keith Earl Edgeron, 27, of Detroit, pleaded guilty today to federal gun and drug charges stemming from an arrest and apprehension by the Fugitive Apprehension Service Team (FAST), a task force of law enforcement officials from Livonia Police Department, Detroit Police Department and ATF, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Edgeron entered the guilty plea in United States District Court before Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff. Edgeron pleaded guilty to felon in possession of a firearm; possession of a stolen firearm; possession with intent to distribute marijuana and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

The information presented to the court at the time of the plea showed that on April 15, 2005, members of FAST force entered a house located on Crescent street in Detroit where defendant was residing. The officers recovered a stolen Glock handgun (DPD issued) from

the kitchen area. The gun was loaded with 30 live rounds. Also recovered from inside a washing machine was 288.1 grams of marijuana and narcotics packaging materials. Defendant acknowledged his plan to sell the marijuana and his possession of the stolen gun for protection.

“This case illustrates the positive effect of Project Safe Neighborhoods in promoting cooperation between local and federal authorities to arrest and prosecute felons in possession of guns and making our community safer,” said Stephen J. Murphy, United States Attorney.

“Repeat and violent offenders are a top priority,” said SAC Goddard. “The Federal firearms laws are meant to protect the public by imposing lengthy prison sentences for those individuals who have previous felony convictions and have proven, through their own actions, that they cannot own or possess a firearm responsibly,” she added

Defendant has a prior felony conviction and was an absconder from parole at the time of the arrest. Based upon his prior criminal record, Defendant faces a potential sentence of 15 years-life. Sentencing has been scheduled for June 6, 2006.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Susan E. Gillooly.



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Susan Plochinski (313) 226-9193
Steve Moore, IRS (313) 234-2410

March 15, 2006

EVENT: Indictment

Defendant: Markita D. Darden

TAX PREPARER INDICTED FOR FILING FALSE TAX RETURNS

Markita Dionne Darden, 31, of Detroit was indicted by a federal grand jury in Detroit on charges of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false income tax returns, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Internal Revenue Service Special Agent in Charge Maurice Aouate.

According to the indictment, Darden allegedly prepared 36 separate returns involving 12 taxpayers, from February 21, 2003 through April 15, 2004.

“At this time of year it is important that taxpayers remember that they are ultimately responsible for their tax returns, no matter who prepares them. The taxpayer may be subject

to fines and penalties if the tax returns are false. Our tax system relies on the honesty of all citizens,” said U.S. Attorney Murphy.

“IRS Criminal Investigations focus on return preparers who use tax returns as a tool to steal from the government. We will continue to work with the United States Attorney's Office to investigate and prosecute these types of cases to the fullest extent of the law,” said Maurice Aouate, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service.

In announcing the indictment, Mr. Murphy commended the work of the Special Agents of the Internal Revenue Service which conducted the investigation.

The charges carry a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment and/or a \$250,000 fine on each count of the indictment.

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.

The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Kenneth R. Chadwell



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Susan Plochinski (313) 226-9193

March 15, 2006

EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Tarek Makki and Adham Mackie

**TWO MEN SENTENCED ON TRAFFICKING IN COUNTERFEIT ZIG ZAG PAPER PRODUCTS
CHARGES**

Two men who pled guilty to trafficking in counterfeit Zig Zag® papers products and related charges were sentenced on March 14, 2006, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announced by Brian M. Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Special Agent in Charge Maurice Aouate, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation.

According to the fifteen count indictment, Tarek Makki, age 41, and Adham Mackie, age 38, both of whom resided in Dearborn, violated federal law by operating an off-shore counterfeiting scheme involving the smuggling and/or clandestine importation into the United States of thousands of cases of counterfeit Zig Zag cigarette paper products that were manufactured/repackaged in among other locations, Jakarta, Indonesia and elsewhere.

Bollore, Inc. was an internationally known distributor of specialty paper products, and

has for over a century, used the “Zig Zag” trademark and the depiction of a bearded man (the “Smoking Man Design”) trademark (collectively, the “Zig-Zag® Trademarks”) in connection with its cigarette paper products, cartons, cases and booklets. Both the Zig Zag® and the Smoking Man Design® trademarks are registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Tarek Makki was sentenced to 24 months of imprisonment, a Special Assessment of \$600 and restitution in the amount of \$879,056. Adham Mackie was sentenced to 24 months of imprisonment, a Special Assessment of \$500 and restitution in the amount of \$879,056. These sentences were imposed by the Honorable Avern Cohn, United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

“The interdiction of counterfeit trademark goods protects the integrity of the market and prevents wrongdoers from profiting from the hard work of others,” said United States Attorney Murphy. “We are pleased that the sentences in this case match the seriousness of the crime.”

The criminal charges in this case were the result of an investigation by the United States Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the United States Internal Revenue Service. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Gary Felder.



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Susan Plochinski (313) 226-9193

March 16, 2006

EVENT: Complaint

Defendant: Rodney J. Cooper and Scott Cooper

**TWO PERSONS & RELATED COMPANIES CHARGED
WITH MAKING FALSE MEDICARE CLAIMS**

The United States has intervened and filed a complaint in a civil false claims *qui tam* action against Rodney J. Cooper, a/k/a, R.J. Cooper, age 60, of Oxford, and Scott Cooper, age 35, of Grand Blanc announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy. Also named as defendants are R.J. Cooper Company, Inc., R.J. Cooper and Associates, Inc., Dynamic Medical Products and Services of Michigan, and Great Lakes Restorative all located in Lake Orion, Michigan. These companies are controlled by Rodney and Scott Cooper.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by FBI Special Agent in Charge Daniel D. Roberts, of the Detroit Division, and Thomas Spokaeski, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General.

The complaint alleges that from 2000 to 2005, the defendants conspired to submit false claims for more than \$1.2 million in Medicare payments. The defendants made false claims for Medicare reimbursement for durable medical equipment that either was not prescribed for use by Medicare beneficiaries, not ordered by them, not medically necessary or, in some

instances, never delivered.

Durable medical equipment is physician ordered reusable items for use in a patient's home. Among the types of equipment involved in the scheme were diabetic shoes and inserts, bilateral ankle foot orthoses, bilateral knee orthoses, spinal orthotics, and lower extremity suspension sleeves.

“Using civil litigation to combat health care fraud is among the highest priorities of this office,” said Murphy. “Working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General, our objectives are both to deter the wrongdoing and win back the fraudulent financial gain so that Medicare funds are expended for truly legitimate services.”

The defendants' submissions for payment violated the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3729, *et seq.* Murphy said that the False Claims Act is designed to discourage and ferret out fraud against the Federal Government. The statute allows the United States to recover up to treble damages and \$11,000 per false claim submitted.

The *qui tam* provisions of the False Claims Act allows private citizens with knowledge of fraud against the United States to file a lawsuit on the Government's behalf. Under the False Claims Act, a whistle blower can receive between 15 and 25 percent of the government's recovery in a case that the government joins. It is estimated that the United States has recovered more than \$8 billion since 1986 through *qui tam* suits under the False Claims Act.

The case is being investigated by the FBI and Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michael J. Riordan.



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Susan Plochinski (313) 226-9193

March 16, 2006

EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Elise Love and Gina Solomon

BANK MANAGER, ACCOMPLICE, FOUND GUILTY OF BANK FRAUD

A former branch manager of Sterling Bank and Trust in Dearborn, Michigan was found guilty today, along with an accomplice, of bank fraud by a federal jury in Detroit, announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Daniel D. Roberts, Special Agent In Charge of the Detroit Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Found guilty was Elise Love, 54, of Detroit, the branch manager for Sterling Bank and Trust. Love was found guilty of bank fraud, aiding and abetting, and embezzlement.

Gina Solomon, 32, of Detroit was also found guilty of bank fraud, and aiding and abetting.

The jury deliberated for approximately three hours before returning the verdict, concluding a three-day trial before United States District Judge George Caram Steeh.

The evidence presented at trial showed that on April 22, 2002, May 9, 2002 and June 1, 2002 Love and Solomon were responsible for causing three separate cashier's checks totaling \$86,000 to be fraudulently drawn on the account of an 85-year-old victim. The evidence demonstrated that the victim's signature was forged on withdrawal slips which were used to generate the cashier's checks. The cashier's checks were then provided to Solomon who in turn deposited the funds into her own private bank account.

"Embezzlement by a bank manager, particularly involving the theft of funds from the account of a vulnerable senior citizen, is a serious offense deserving the full attention of federal law enforcement. I hope the excellent work of the FBI and this jury will deter any similar conduct and help protect the funds of all citizens who entrust their savings to our federally insured financial institutions," U.S. Attorney Murphy said.

Both charges are felonies and carry a maximum sentence of 30 years imprisonment.

Sentencing for both defendants is scheduled for June 22, 2006.

The case was investigated by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephanie Dawkins Davis.



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Susan Plochinski (313) 226-9193

March 21, 2006

EVENT: Sentencing

Defendant: John L. Garrett, Jr.

WAYNE COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF SENTENCED

A former Wayne County Deputy Sheriff was sentenced today to 18 months imprisonment for charges relating to marijuana conspiracy, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

John L. Garrett, Jr., 35, of Westland, Michigan, was sentenced today in United States District Court by Judge John Feikens.

Joined in the announcement were FBI Special Agent in Charge Daniel D. Roberts of the Detroit Division and Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent in Charge Robert L. Corso.

Garrett pleaded guilty on July 19, 2005 to one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute marijuana. The offense arose when Garrett received a telephone call from one of the co-conspirators informing him that a Federal Express employee had a 25 pound box of marijuana belonging to the conspirators. Garrett used a police computer to obtain the Federal Express employee's home address and passed that information on to the leaders of the

conspiracy. Two of the conspirators broke into the employee's home and physically assaulted him. The Federal Express employee had no knowledge or culpability of the marijuana activities.

“Whenever a law enforcement official is involved in a crime, a crucial bond of trust is broken and the safety of the entire community is put at risk. For this reason, we will aggressively fight corruption wherever it is found, including when it involves law enforcement officials,” said U.S. Attorney Murphy.

The federal investigation has been conducted by the FBI working in conjunction with DEA and the South Rockwood Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States David Portelli.



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Susan Plochinski (313) 226-9193

March 21, 2006

EVENT: Announcement

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES OFFICE RESTRUCTURING
TO ENHANCE NATIONAL SECURITY PRIORITIES**

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced an expansion of his Office's Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU) today, with the addition of two more, highly experienced Assistant United States Attorneys to that seven-member unit. Joining CTU will be Stephen T. Robinson, a 24-year veteran fraud prosecutor with expertise in complicated financial investigations, and Ronald W. Waterstreet, a 17-year career federal prosecutor who has specialized in complex narcotics conspiracies and money laundering cases. The staffing changes are designed to increase the ability of the Unit to respond to national security needs, and to implement the Department of Justice's top priorities of preventing terrorism and protecting homeland security.

"This is the second time since becoming United States Attorney that I have made staffing reassignments to better equip our office to handle not only all of our usual law enforcement responsibilities but also the Department's primary goal of protecting national security," said United States Attorney Murphy.

United States Attorney Murphy will be available throughout the remainder of this week to answer media inquiries on this topic.

Created in 2002 as a five-member unit in response to the 9/11 attacks, the mission of the Detroit office's Counter-Terrorism Unit (CTU) is to investigate and prosecute those who

might plan, financially support, or carry out international and domestic terrorist activities. More recently, and consistent with the Department's creation of a separate National Security Division following the extension of the USA-PATRIOT Act, the Unit's responsibilities have expanded to include other investigations and prosecutions involving national security. These matters touch upon foreign counterintelligence matters, espionage, and certain transnational organized crime groups involved in alien smuggling, cash smuggling and the operation of illegal unlicensed money transmitting businesses.

"Assistant United States Attorneys Stephen T. Robinson and Ronald Waterstreet are newly appointed as CTU members. These fine prosecutors will apply their extensive knowledge and expertise in handling complex investigations, and further assist the office in working with its partners in the law enforcement and intelligence communities," said Murphy.

White-collar crime specialist Stephen Robinson has been with the United States Attorney's Office for more than two decades, and has served as lead prosecutor in several corporate fraud prosecutions. Narcotics prosecutor Ronald Waterstreet is a 17-plus year veteran of the United States Attorney's Office, having handled numerous high profile drug and money laundering prosecutions. Waterstreet and Robinson will join last year's most recent additions to the CTU: Senior Litigation Counsel Michael Buckley, a 16-year veteran and former deputy chief of the Controlled Substance Unit; as well as Intelligence Research Specialist Todd Paxton, a current U.S. Army Intelligence reserve officer and former member of the U.S. Army Special Forces.

Other Assistant United States Attorneys in Detroit's CTU include: Cynthia Oberg, a 14-year office veteran, who between 1998 and 2003 led the Detroit Metro Identity Fraud Task Force; Gary Felder, a 28-year office veteran and Public Corruption/Civil Rights specialist; Cathleen Corken, formerly deputy chief of the Terrorism and Violent Crime Section at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.; and Kenneth Chadwell, a 17-year office veteran and current Anti-Terrorism Immigration Coordinator.

In May 2005, United States Attorney Murphy elevated former Organized Crime Strike Force Attorney and CTU Deputy Chief Eric Straus, who has served the Office for more than 19 years, to become Chief of the Counter Terrorism Unit. Likewise, Murphy appointed Assistant United States Attorney Barbara McQuade, the office's Crisis Management Coordinator and former judicial law clerk for Chief Judge Bernard A. Friedman, to serve as Deputy Chief of the Unit.

“Clearly the depth of talent and experience of the lawyers in our CTU make this fine group of Assistant United States Attorneys one of the most accomplished groups of prosecutors in the upper Midwest, if not the nation. This is truly an elite cadre of antiterrorism specialists, whose sole mission is to keep the citizens of our district safe every day,” said Murphy earlier today.

The CTU of United States Attorney’s Office in Detroit is one of only a handful established nationwide to address national security matters, and of these, it is among the largest.

Other personnel changes announced by Murphy in addition to those of the Counter-Terrorism Unit include the appointment of Assistant United States Attorneys Daniel Lemisch to be Deputy Chief of the Controlled Substance Unit; Stephanie Davis to serve as Counselor to the Controlled Substance Unit, Chief for HIDTA Coordination; and Christopher Varner and Sarah Resnick Cohen to join the Economic Crimes Unit.

The United States Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Michigan prosecutes civil and criminal matters on behalf of the United States of America and its agencies in the 34 counties that make up the eastern half of the state. The Office serves a population of more than 6.7 million Michigan residents and comprises approximately 100 Assistant United States Attorneys and a similar number of support staff.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy was appointed by President Bush to his position on March 8, 2005 and confirmed by unanimous consent of the United States Senate three months later.



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Susan Plochinski (313) 226-9193

March 22, 2006

EVENT: Sentencing

Defendant: Vassalo K. Russell

MAN WHO THREATENED TO BLOW UP FEDERAL COURTHOUSE SENTENCED

Vassalo K. Russell, 29, of Detroit was sentenced in federal court in Detroit today to 87 months imprisonment for threatening to use a weapon of mass destruction against U.S. government property, a false income tax refund claim conspiracy, and a probation violation from a prior federal bank fraud conviction, announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy.

The sentence was handed down by United States District Judge Gerald E. Rosen.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by FBI Special Agent in Charge Daniel D. Roberts, of the Detroit Division, and Maurice M. Aouate, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation.

Russell pleaded guilty to the charges on November 22, 2005. The information presented to the Court at the time of the plea revealed that between July 13, 2004 and August 23, 2004, Russell made three separate bomb threats against the Theodore Levin United States Courthouse, the same building where he was sentenced today. Russell also engaged in a bogus income tax refund scheme involving forged W2 forms during the early part of 2003

and violated the terms of his federal supervised release by making the bomb threats.

“This case underscores the gravity with which my office, the FBI and the U.S. Marshal Service view terrorism related threats and demonstrates our strong commitment to investigating and prosecuting these types of offenses,” said United States Attorney Murphy. “The Department of Justice takes threats to injure the persons or property of others as extremely serious crimes and will vigorously prosecute those who attempt to terrorize the public by issuing such threats. This is particularly so when, as here, a threat includes the use of a bomb or other weapon of mass destruction.”

In announcing the sentence, United States Attorney Murphy commended the work of the Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service, who conducted the investigations, and the United States Marshal Service, which arrested Mr. Russell in Atlanta, Georgia in 2005. The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Kenneth R. Chadwell.



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Susan Plochinski (313) 226-9193

March 22, 2006

EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Walter John Bates and Albert Stephen Bates

FORMER DETROIT POLICE DETECTIVE FOUND GUILTY OF BANK ROBBERY

A federal jury in Detroit found Walter John Bates, of Southfield and Albert Stephen Bates, of Detroit, guilty in connection with federal bank robbery charges today. Walter Bates was convicted of conspiring to commit a series of bank robberies during the summer of 2002, and with committing a bank robbery on Oct. 4, 2002 in Oak Park, Michigan. His brother, Albert Bates, was also convicted of conspiring to commit a series of bank robberies as well as committing five individual bank robberies, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today. Albert Bates was acquitted of two additional charges of bank robbery.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Daniel D. Roberts, Special Agent in Charge, Detroit Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The jury deliberated for approximately two days before returning the guilty verdict, concluding a week and a half trial before United States District Court Judge Arthur J. Tarnow.

The evidence presented at trial established that Walter Bates, who at the time of the bank robberies was a member of the Detroit Police Dept. Homicide Squad, together, with his

brother Albert Bates and others, committed approximately 13 bank robberies during the period of July 30 through Oct 8, 2002.

“Bank robberies are a significant problem for this district because they instill fear in their victims and undermine confidence in the heart of our region's commercial banking activity. Unusual bank robbery crimes like this one -- which involved a trusted officer in our law enforcement community -- are particularly egregious. I applaud the work of the trial team which brought this case to a successful conclusion,” United States Attorney Murphy said.

Murphy commended the work of Assistant United States Attorneys Daniel Hurley and Peter Deegan, who tried the case, along with agents of the FBI, particularly Special Agent Michael Mangan, who worked many long hours on the investigation

A sentencing date for both defendants has been set for June 22, 2006.



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Susan Plochinski (313) 226-9193
Dawn Clenney, FBI - (313) 237-4206

March 23, 2006

EVENT: Indictment

Defendant: Alan Sain

FLINT MAN INDICTED FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY OFFENSES

Alan Sain, 25 of Flint, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Detroit yesterday on charges of production, distribution and possession of child pornography, announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Daniel D. Roberts, Special Agent in Charge, Detroit Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The three count indictment charges that in March of 2006, Sain enticed, coerced and used a child to engage in sexually explicit conduct and produced pictures of the acts. Additionally, Sain transported the images in interstate commerce and was in possession of additional images of child pornography.

“Offenses charged by the grand jury represent some of the most serious ones that we try to address: the exploitation of the most innocent and trusting of victims, small children. We alert the public that this sort of activity is occurring and we promise to vigorously pursue all readily provable charges in these sorts of prosecutions,” U.S. Attorney Murphy said.

Daniel D. Roberts, FBI Special Agent in Charge, advised “The FBI will continue to identify and investigate sexual predators who use the internet and other methods to sexually

exploit children. Our children are the most vulnerable members of society and protecting them from becoming victims of crime is one of the highest priorities of the FBI.”

Sain is expected to appear in U.S. District Court on Monday, March 27, 2006 at 1:30 for arraignment on the indictment.

A grand jury 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.

The case was investigated by special agents of the FBI. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John N. O'Brien II.



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Susan Plochinski (313) 226-9193

March 23, 2006

EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Daniel Patrick Corrigan

SALT LAKE CITY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MAIL FRAUD

A 54-year-old Salt Lake City, Utah man pleaded guilty today to one count of an Information charging him with mail fraud, in a scheme to defraud a widow who resides in Ann Arbor, Michigan of \$450,000 of her late husband's insurance proceeds and mailing her fraudulent letter in furtherance of that scheme, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Pleading guilty before U.S. District Judge Denise Page Hood was Daniel Patrick Corrigan of Salt Lake City, Utah, formerly of Oak Harbor in the State of Washington.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Daniel D. Roberts, Special Agent in Charge, Detroit Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The fraud arose when Corrigan, the widow's insurance representative, convinced her to invest \$450,000 of her late husband's life insurance benefits with a purported investment company based in the Grand Caymans, British West Indies called Regency Asset Management Ltd. Corrigan represented that the widow's monies would be invested by

Regency into secure investments and those with some risk. Corrigan portrayed Regency as an independent company for which he was merely an Independent Consultant in the U.S. In fact, Corrigan was the beneficial owner of Regency and controlled it. After the widow wired her monies to Regency's account in the Caymans in August 2000, Corrigan had the nominee directors of Regency place the money into an Oppenheimer & Co. stock margin account and, thereafter, quickly lost her monies on bad investments choices. The nominee directors terminated Regency in February 2001. Corrigan, however, continued to represent to the widow that her monies were not at risk, but, ultimately, in about September 2003 told her that he could no longer make contact with Regency and that her money had been lost by it.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy stated that, "This is exactly the type of case in which federal law enforcement, through the FBI and the Office of International Affairs in the Department of Justice, plays a pivotal role. Federal authorities are able to obtain evidence of international fraud from foreign countries through the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty process which has been put in place with numerous countries. These cooperative agreements are extremely important in combating schemes to defraud which perpetrators have taken off-shore to impede detection. The authorities in the Caymans are to be complimented for their quick response to our request for evidence and we greatly appreciate their efforts."

There is no plea agreement between the government and Corrigan. The count to which he pleaded guilty, carries a maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

Corrigan's sentencing is scheduled for July 27, 2006 at 2 p.m.

The investigation of this case has been conducted by Special Agent Greg Stejskal of the FBI Office in Ann Arbor and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Ross I. MacKenzie.



U.S. Department of Justice

Stephen J. Murphy

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Michigan



Suite 2001

211 West Fort Street

Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277

Fax: (313) 226-3561

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Susan Plochinski (313) 226-9193

Vera Fedorak, ATF (313) 259-8300

March 23, 2006

EVENT: Sentencing

Defendant: Michael Wright and Joel Laird

DEFENDANTS SENTENCED ON FEDERAL NARCOTICS AND GUN CHARGES

A Detroit defendant was sentenced today to 420 months imprisonment for federal firearms and narcotics charges, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced. The defendant was the second person sentenced in the case.

Michael Wright, 34, of Detroit, was sentenced by United States District Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff. Joel Laird, 31, of Detroit, received a 130 month term on March 14, 2006.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Valerie J. Goddard, Special Agent In Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Defendants Wright and Laird were convicted after a 5 day jury trial in November, 2005.

Defendants were convicted of serious criminal charges including possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine, being convicted felons in possession of a firearm, and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. The case was prosecuted under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative.

Laird and Wright were arrested following the execution of a search warrant on September 14, 2004, by Detroit Police officers, Narcotics Enforcement Unit. The house where the two were arrested is known as a narcotics trafficking location. At the time of the search, Laird was found sitting at a table in the living room. Officers seized a Bryco Arms semi-automatic handgun with an obliterated serial number, loaded with 4 live rounds, and 6.48 grams of crack, from the top of the table where Laird was sitting. Officers also seized narcotics packaging, a digital scale and a laptop computer. Wright was arrested by the police officers as he ran from a bedroom. While running, Wright was observed throwing a tin can. Officers retrieved 16 bags of crack, totaling 5.58 grams from the can, and a Ruger .44 caliber firearm, loaded with 6 live rounds, from the bedroom.

Both Laird and Wright have prior felony criminal convictions. Wright was sentenced under the Career Offender provision of the United States Sentencing Guidelines, which calls for greatly enhanced sentences for defendants who have previous convictions for drug trafficking or violence.

“The Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative is intended to discourage previously convicted felons from carrying firearms, by subjecting them to lengthy federal sentences. This sentence is a prime example that felons who commit these crimes face serious consequences,” stated U.S. Attorney Murphy. “PSN cases target armed, multi-convicted felons like Laird and Wright in an effort to make our neighborhoods safer,” he added. Parole has been abolished under federal law, meaning that each of the defendants will serve the sentence imposed.

Special Agent in Charge, Valerie J. Goddard stated, “Working closely with our state and local partners, the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative will make our neighborhoods safer by keeping armed, violent felons off our streets. ATF is proud to be a partner in this important initiative.”

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Susan Gillooly and investigated by ATF Task Force Agent Steve Hassler.



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Susan Plochinski (313) 226-9193

March 27, 2006

EVENT: Sentencing

Defendant: Mohamad Hassan Younes

DEARBORN MAN IS SENTENCED FOR CREDIT CARD & BANKRUPTCY FRAUD

A Dearborn man was sentenced to 21 months imprisonment for credit card and bankruptcy fraud, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Daniel D. Roberts, Special Agent In Charge of the Detroit Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Office of the U.S. Trustee, Marion J. Mack, Jr. Assistant U.S. Trustee.

Mohamad Hassan Younes, 57, of Dearborn, was sentenced by United States District Judge Victoria A. Roberts

Younes pleaded guilty in November 2005 to one count of filing a bankruptcy petition in furtherance of a scheme to defraud 21 credit card companies, banks, and retail stores. The fraud stemmed from Younes obtaining the credit cards from credit card companies, banks and retail stores using false employment and income information. Between February and June 2002, Younes used the credit cards to purchase electronic equipment, household furniture, clothes, and jewelry as well as cash advances. Younes sold many of the goods he acquired to

others for 50% of their value. Checks drawn on a closed business checking account were used to pay some of the credit card accounts which would serve to temporarily increase the credit lines. Younes obtained about \$192,000 in goods and cash. On March 14, 2003, he filed a petition in bankruptcy in order to discharge all the debt he had fraudulently incurred.

“This case demonstrates our commitment to preventing the use of the federal bankruptcy laws to perpetuate fraudulent conduct. The bankruptcy procedures are designed to give honest debtors a fresh start, not reward criminals for their misconduct,” United States Attorney Murphy said. “With our partners in the FBI and the U.S. Trustees Office, we will continue to aggressively pursue such cases.”

The case was investigated by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ross I. MacKenzie, and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Leslie Berg, of the U.S. Trustee’s Office.



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Susan Plochinski (313) 226-9193

March 23, 2006

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S CHILD PROTECTION INITIATIVE

Our office has successfully charged and convicted a disturbingly high – and increasing number of criminal defendants in the past year who have engaged in despicable acts of criminality that endanger the safety and innocence of our community's most precious asset: our children. Child pornography, human trafficking, interstate transportation of minors for the purpose of engaging in sex and other sorts of predatory activity upon children are all federal offenses about which we have done much. But we can also do more; and I formally commit today to doing all we can to protect our children through the tough enforcement of federal criminal law.

Therefore, in response to these troubling trends, and in conjunction with Attorney General Alberto Gonzales' Project Safe Childhood, I am announcing the Eastern District of Michigan's establishment of a Child Protection Initiative that is intended to ensure that we are doing everything we possibly can to protect and take care of our district's children. Specifically, we intend to seek the maximum legally permissible sentences in such cases, and we will intensify and redouble our enforcement and our community education programs to prevent, detect, punish and

deter horrendous crimes against children. Our efforts are specifically designed to prosecute those who prey on children, to put them in prison, and to make sure that they are not free to hurt others through additional degenerate acts. We will also work hard to cooperate with other federal, state and local law enforcement entities to address this problem.

There are several important parts to this new program:

- **We will “burn with determination.”**

We will never yield, back down or shirk from our obligation to enforce federal laws protecting our children.

- **We will seek maximum sentences.**

We pledge to charge the most serious of all readily provable child exploitation offenses, insuring that offenders face the maximum sentences available under the law. I further pledge, and it is hereby the policy of this office, that after analysis of the facts in every specific case, no plea offers will be made except to the very top of the applicable sentencing guidelines range in all child exploitation cases.

- **We will create an expert corps of child exploitation prosecutors.**

Beginning today, I am designating seven outstanding Assistant United States Attorneys to become experts in child exploitation cases. Our efforts will be led by Assistant United States Attorney John O'Brien, who presently serves as Deputy Chief of our General Crimes Unit, and who has a great deal of hands on experience in this area of enforcement. Highly skilled attorneys from

our General Crimes Unit, Special Prosecutions Unit and Cross Functional Civil Rights Task Force will be assigned to support this effort as well.

Our office currently has 65 open child exploitation cases, and many more in the pipeline. Under the initiative announced today, the designated attorneys will receive specialized training in handling these cases, and they will work directly with expert agents of the FBI, ICE, the Postal Inspection Service, and the US Secret Service to ensure that all of the cases they have in this area will be prosecuted swiftly, efficiently and vigorously.

- **Strategic partnerships with federal, state and local authorities.**

I will meet forthwith with all of our partners in federal, state and local law enforcement to discuss and implement the most innovative strategies possible to deal with the scourge of crimes committed against our children. Specifically, in an age of downsized federal resources and the need to do more with less, I will seek working relationships and a district wide task force that will permit our authorities to effectively share information, coordinate resources and work more effectively together, even with the full knowledge that no new federal dollars are available to fund new programs or prosecution positions. We will do all we can to focus the task force on large scale violators of federal laws designed to protect children and we will further seek to commit the most up to date law enforcement techniques in practice today to fight, for instance, the producers of child pornography.

Moreover, we will work closely with and consistently ask for significant support from our colleagues in Washington. In appropriate cases, we will seek staffing help and attorney assignments from lawyers in the Civil Rights, Criminal and Tax Divisions of the United States

Department of Justice.

● **We will implement an Internet Safety and Awareness program that will be offered in local schools to students and parents.**

Our office currently conducts Project Sentry, which is an award winning anti-drug and firearms violence outreach program in local schools. I am expanding this program, effective immediately, to include an Internet Safety and Awareness component. The purpose of this program will be to make certain that our children, particularly middle school and high school students, are aware of the dangers of the Internet and that they are also aware that law enforcement has the tools necessary to detect and apprehend those who use the Internet to commit crimes.

U.S. Attorney General Gonzales recently announced “Project Safe Childhood,” which is a program to expand the federal funds available for community awareness and education programs related to child exploitation. Our district’s Child Protection Initiative is consistent with the Attorney General’s approach, and our program will become an active participant in Project Safe Childhood as it is implemented and carried out.

Our children are the lifeline of our community. I personally pledge to do all I can to keep them safe and to fully prosecute those who would endanger them.

STEPHEN J. MURPHY

United States Attorney

Detroit, Michigan



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Susan Plochinski (313) 226-9193

March 29, 2006

EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Andrew M. Brown

FENTON RESTAURANT OWNER PLEADS GUILTY TO TAX EVASION

The owner of Andrico's Restaurant in Fenton, Michigan pleaded guilty today to an information charging him with tax evasion, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Maurice Aouate, Special Agent In Charge of the Detroit Field Office of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation.

Andrew M. Brown, Jr., 51, of Fenton, entered the guilty plea in United States District Court in Flint before Judge Paul V. Gadola.

The information presented to the court at the time of the plea showed that Mr. Brown owned and operated Andrico's, which generated substantial cash receipts, but that during 1999 and 2000 he did not report to his accountant all of the cash received. About April 14, 2000, Brown signed and filed a tax return stating that his taxable income for the year 1999 was \$175,325; but, in addition to that taxable income, Brown had received and personally used about \$128,374 in cash received at Andrico's. By failing to report this cash income, defendant understated the amount of tax he owed by about \$49,000.

Under the terms of his plea agreement, Brown faces up to 16 months' imprisonment and a fine of up to \$30,000. In addition, Brown agreed to file true and correct amended tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service for 1999 and 2000 before sentencing, reporting all of his income; the parties expect that he will owe additional tax in the amount of about \$96,628, plus penalties and interest.

"The voluntary payment of taxes is the "user fee" we all pay for the benefits of security and public service that we enjoy in our free society. As a result, tax evasion is a serious crime that adversely effects all citizens. We will do all we can to make certain that our efforts result in voluntary compliance," U.S. Attorney Murphy said.

Judge Gadola scheduled sentencing for July 11, 2006 at 2 p.m.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert W. Haviland.



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Susan Plochinski (313) 226-9193

March 29, 2006

EVENT: Indictment

Defendant: Fadi Mohamad-Musbah Hammoud, et al

NINETEEN CHARGED WITH RACKETEERING

TO SUPPORT TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

A Federal Grand Jury in Detroit charged nineteen individuals with operating a global racketeering conspiracy in an indictment unsealed today, announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy. The indictment alleges that portions of the profits made from the illegal enterprise were given to Hizballah, a foreign terrorist organization. Nine of the individuals were arrested this morning.

U. S. Attorney Murphy was joined in the announcement by Daniel D. Roberts, Special Agent in Charge of the Detroit FBI; Valerie J. Goddard, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Brian M. Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Maurice Aouate, Special Agent in Charge of the Detroit Field Office of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation; and Michael Cleary, Special Agent in Charge, FDA-Office of Criminal Investigation.

The indictment charges that between 1996 and 2004, a group of individuals worked together in a criminal enterprise to traffic in contraband cigarettes, counterfeit Zig Zag rolling papers and counterfeit Viagra, to produce counterfeit cigarette tax stamps, to transport stolen

property, and to launder money. The enterprise operated from Lebanon, Canada, China, Brazil, Paraguay and the United States. The indictment, returned by a federal grand jury on April 14, 2004, was sealed pursuant to a court order until today.

Arrested this morning by members of the Detroit Joint Terrorism Task Force ("JTTF") were: Karim Hassan Nasser, 37, of Windsor, Ontario; Fadi Mohamad-Musbah Hammoud, 33, of Dearborn; Majid Mohamad Hammoud, 39, of Dearborn Heights; Jihad Hammoud, 47, of Dearborn; Youssef Aoun Bakri, 36, of Dearborn Heights; Ali Najib Berjaoui, 39, of Dearborn; Mohammed Fawzi Zeidan, 41, of Canton; Imad Majed Hamadeh, 51, of Dearborn Heights; Adel Isak, 37, of Sterling Heights

Also named in the Indictment, but not arrested today because they currently reside outside of the United States were: Imad Mohamad-Musbah Hammoud, 37 of Lebanon, formerly of Dearborn; Hassan Ali Al-Mosawi, 49, of Lebanon; Hassan Hassan Nasser, 36, of Windsor, Ontario; Ali Ahmad Hammoud, 64, of Lebanon; Karim Hassan Abbas, 37, formerly of Dearborn; Hassan Mohamad Srour, 30, of Montreal, Quebec; Naji Hassan Alawie, 44, of Windsor, Ontario; and Abdel-Hamid Sinno, 52, of Montreal, Quebec.

Theodore Schenk, 73, of Miami Beach, Florida was not arrested today but will be voluntarily surrendering himself for arraignment on April 10, 2006.

The indictment alleges that Imad Hammoud, along with his partner, Hassan Makki, ran a multi-million dollar a year contraband cigarette trafficking organization headquartered in the Dearborn, Michigan, area between 1996 and 2002. Makki pleaded guilty in 2003 in federal district court in Detroit to racketeering and providing material support to Hizballah. Some of the cigarettes were supplied to the organization by Mohamad Hammoud, who was convicted in 2002 in federal district court in Charlotte, North Carolina, of, among other crimes, racketeering and providing material support to Hizballah. Makki and Mohamad Hammoud, who were not charged in the indictment unsealed today, were identified as unindicted co-conspirators. They both are currently serving prison sentences relating to their activities in this matter.

The indictment charges that the group would obtain low-taxed or untaxed cigarettes in North Carolina and the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation in New York and bring them into Michigan and the State of New York for the purpose of evading tens of millions in state cigarette taxes. The enterprise obtained large profits by reselling the cigarettes at market prices in Michigan and New York. The enterprise sometimes used counterfeit tax stamps to make it appear that the state taxes had been paid.

The indictment charges that portions of the profits made from the illegal enterprise were

given to Hizballah. Some members of the enterprise charged a "Resistance Tax," being a set amount over black market price per carton of contraband cigarettes, which their customers were told would be going to Hizballah. Some members of the enterprise also solicited money from cigarette customers for the orphans of martyrs program run by Hizballah in Southern Lebanon to support the families of persons killed in Hizballah suicide and other terrorist operations.

The U.S. Secretary of State has designated Hizballah a foreign terrorist organization. An entity may be designated as a foreign terrorist organization if the Secretary of States finds that: (1) the organization is a foreign organization; (2) the organization engages in terrorist activity; and (3) the terrorist activity of the organization threatens the security of United States nationals or the national security of the United States.

"Fighting terrorism and keeping our citizens safe from its reach are the number one priorities of this Office. The law enforcement agencies involved in the case unsealed today must be applauded for their collective effort to bring together an investigation with this sort of global reach," U.S. Attorney Murphy said. "Together, we will use all of the legal tools available to us to disrupt criminal activity that funds terrorist organizations."

Daniel D. Roberts, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Detroit Michigan advised "The FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) will continue to aggressively identify, investigate and dismantle these criminal enterprises operating in the United States, as well as the rest of the world when their profits are used to support a foreign terrorist organization such as Hizballah."

"Investigating contraband cigarette trafficking has been, is, and will continue to be a top priority for ATF, particularly when there is nexus to a known terrorist organization such as Hizballah," stated Special Agent in Charge Valerie J. Goddard, ATF Detroit.

According to Brian M. Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of Investigations in Detroit, "ICE will continue to work with other law enforcement agencies to dismantle criminal organizations. Racketeering is a serious crime and ICE will continue to investigate those who exploit our borders to facilitate their criminal enterprise."

The FDA Office of Criminal Investigation under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Michael E. Cleary, Chicago Field office remains committed to working with their partners in law enforcement to protect the public's health and safety.

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.

In announcing the indictment, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy commended the work of the FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Special Agents of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Internal Revenue Service, the Food and Drug Administration, Michigan State Police and the Dearborn Police Department. The case is assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorneys Kenneth Chadwell and Barbara McQuade.



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Susan Plochinski (313) 226-9193
Vera Fedorak - ATF (313) 259-7917

March 29, 2006

EVENT: Sentencing

Defendant: Curtis Lee Tinker

DETROIT MAN SENTENCED ON FEDERAL NARCOTICS CHARGES

A Detroit man was sentenced today to 120 months' imprisonment after being convicted of possession, sale and distribution of 49.6 grams of crack cocaine, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Curtis Lee Tinker, 50, of Detroit, was sentenced by United States District Judge Arthur J. Tarnow.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Valerie J. Goddard, Special Agent In Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

Tinker pleaded guilty in December 2005 to one count of possession with intent to distribute more than five grams of crack cocaine. The offense arose following Tinker's arrest on November 1, 2005, by Detroit Police Officers-Narcotics Bureau. Tinker was observed sitting in his vehicle, with the dome light on. As the police officers approached the vehicle, Tinker looked in their direction and tossed a balled up piece of paper from the window. The

paper contained several large chunks of crack cocaine, totaling 49.6 grams. At the time of his plea, Tinker admitted to possessing the crack cocaine for sale and distribution. Tinker was prosecuted under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative.

“The Project Safe Neighborhoods program focuses on taking serious offenders off the streets in order to reduce drug and gun crimes in our community. This sentence is another example showing that felons who commit these crimes face serious consequences,” stated U.S. Attorney Murphy.

Mr. Murphy commended the ATF and the Detroit Police for excellent cooperative effort and investigative work that led to this prosecution. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Susan E. Gillooly.



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561*



For Immediate Release:

Contact: Susan Plochinski (313) 226-9193
Vera Fedorak - ATF (313) 259-7917

March 31, 2006

EVENT: Sentencing

Defendant: Terence Walden

DETROIT MAN SENTENCED ON FEDERAL NARCOTICS AND FIREARM CHARGES

A Detroit man was sentenced today to 95 months imprisonment for charges related to the possession, sale and distribution of crack cocaine, and the unlawful possession of a firearm, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Terence Walden, 28, of Detroit, was sentenced by United States District Judge Marianne O. Battani.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Valerie J. Goddard, Special Agent In Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

Walden pleaded guilty in October 2005 to one count of felon in possession of a firearm and one count of possession with intent to distribute more than five grams of crack cocaine. The offense arose following Walden's arrest on October 6, 2004, by Romulus Police Officers following the execution of a search warrant at his mobile home, located in Belleville, Michigan.

Walden, his wife, and three young children, were found in the home at the time the search was conducted. Recovered from the bedroom of the house was 75.99 grams of marijuana, 33 individual packets of crack cocaine and a loaded Western Field 12 gauge pump shotgun. The loaded shotgun was found under the bed.

At the time of his plea, Walden admitted to possessing the shotgun and the sale of crack cocaine. Walden was prosecuted under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative.

“The Project Safe Neighborhoods program focuses on taking serious offenders off the streets in order to reduce drug and gun crimes in our community. This sentence is another example showing that felons who commit these crimes face serious consequences,” stated U.S. Attorney Murphy.

Mr. Murphy commended the ATF for their excellent cooperative effort and investigative work which led to this prosecution. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Susan E. Gillooly and ATF Special Agent Scott Toth.