



Department of Justice

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WORTHY SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR ROLE IN HELPING ILLEGAL ALIENS OBTAIN SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS

Atlanta, GA - ANTHONY WORTHY, 41, of Chester, South Carolina, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Jack T. Camp to 1 year, 8 months in federal prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release after his conviction for bribing a public official to issue Social Security cards to illegal aliens. On March 1, 2005, the grand jury indicted WORTHY along with co-defendants KIMBERLY BROWN, KHADY MBENGUE, RICHARD SIMON and JUDY GARCIA. WORTHY entered a plea of guilty on October 3, 2005, to conspiring to encourage aliens to reside in the United States unlawfully by providing them with Social Security cards, and bribing a public official to provide the cards.

"Anthony Worthy bribed a Social Security employee to betray her trust to serve the public," said United States Attorney David E. Nahmias. "Because of his actions, at least 16 aliens improperly got Social Security cards. People involved with public corruption and illegal aliens can end up in prison, like Mr. Worthy."

According to United States Attorney David E. Nahmias and the documents and information presented in court: From June 2002 to March 2003, WORTHY and co-defendants MBENGUE, SIMON, and GARCIA conspired with KIMBERLY BROWN, an employee of the Social Security Administration, to produce, transfer, and possess approximately 83 fraudulently obtained Social Security cards, which were used to encourage and induce illegal aliens to reside in the United States.

WORTHY charged illegal aliens approximately \$1,000 to get a Social Security card, and he paid BROWN approximately \$500 for each card that she issued. WORTHY provided BROWN with the names and place of birth of the aliens, their parents' names, and their passport numbers. BROWN put this information into the Social Security system even though each alien was not entitled to receive a Social Security card. The illegal aliens were able to use the cards to obtain employment in the United States. At least 16 aliens received cards through WORTHY's participation in the conspiracy.

At today's hearing, United States District Judge Camp increased WORTHY's sentence based on his obstruction of justice. According to the evidence presented in court, after the grand jury indicted WORTHY and an arrest warrant was issued, WORTHY provided false information to law enforcement officers regarding his true identity when they attempted to arrest him at his home in Chester, South Carolina. WORTHY specifically denied ever having lived in the Atlanta area and told the officers that they were searching for his cousin, who had the same name but lived elsewhere in South Carolina. After WORTHY was arrested, he agreed to be interviewed by special agents but continued to provide materially false information to them regarding his role in the offense and his recent contact with co-defendants.

Co-defendant MBENGUE entered a guilty plea on May 5, 2005, to charges of conspiring to encourage aliens to reside in the U.S. unlawfully and bribing a public official to issue Social Security cards. Co-defendant SIMON pleaded guilty to the same charges on October 3, 2005, while GARCIA pleaded guilty on the same day to charges of bribing a public official and knowingly possessing an identification document produced without lawful authority. On December 16, 2005, MBENGUE was sentenced to 1 year of prison to be followed by 2 years of supervised release, SIMON was sentenced to 5 years of probation, and GARCIA was sentenced to 1 year, 8 months of prison to be followed by 2 years of supervised release. BROWN pleaded guilty on October 14, 2005, to charges of conspiracy to encourage aliens to reside in the U.S. unlawfully, and to accepting bribes as a public official. BROWN's sentencing date has not yet been set by the court.

This case was investigated by special agents of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, and the Office of the Inspector General, Social Security Administration.

Assistant United States Attorney Susan Coppedge and Special Assistant United States Attorney Paul Jones prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney or Gentry Shelnett, Chief, Criminal Division, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan/>.