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**O'HARE INSPECTOR AMONG SEVEN INDICTED
IN ALLEGED IMMIGRATION FRAUD CONSPIRACY**

CHICAGO – A Homeland Security inspector at O'Hare International Airport and six other defendants were indicted on various federal charges involving an alleged conspiracy to provide unlawful immigration assistance to themselves and others, including fraudulent immigration, identification and travel documents, which were obtained through the payment of cash bribes, federal law enforcement authorities announced today. Defendant **Robert Butman** was a senior inspector with the former Immigration and Naturalization Service and, since March 2003, with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP), stationed at O'Hare until he was arrested on a complaint on June 30. Five of Butman's six co-defendants were charged for the first time in a 19-count indictment that was returned by a federal grand jury late yesterday and made public today.

The charges were announced by Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; Clark Kent Ervin, Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Thomas Frost, Special Agent-in-Charge in Chicago of the DHS Office of Inspector General; and Richard K. Ruminski, Acting Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Inspector General Ervin said: “I am pleased by this indictment. DHS employees should be held to the highest standards and we take all allegations of employee corruption very seriously.”

Butman, 40, of Niles, who is free on a \$50,000 secured bond, was charged with conspiracy, extortion, obstruction of justice, computer fraud and multiple counts of bribery and identification document fraud. He was responsible for verifying the legal status of incoming aliens at the airport and investigating violations of customs and immigration laws. He had access to computer records containing information about individuals’ travel history and immigration status.

Between at least 2000 and June 2004, Butman and co-defendants **Marek Stachurski**, **Marcin Bazula**, **Piotr Jan Greszta** and **Krzysztof Szuba** allegedly conspired to unlawfully transfer and possess identification documents and false identification documents, including a United States visa, I-94 forms of alien arrival and departure records and transportation letters, to defraud the United States.

Stachurski, 26, of Wood Dale, and Bazula, 27, of Addison, will be ordered to appear for arraignment in U.S. District Court. Arrest warrants were issued for Greszta, 24, of River Grove, and Szuba, 28, of Chicago.

According to the indictment, Butman used middlemen, including Stachurski, Bazula and Greszta, to demand and receive money from individuals needing immigration assistance, and in exchange Butman provided fraudulently renewed I-94 forms and used U.S. Embassy and other Homeland Security contacts to improperly ensure that individuals would receive immigration documentation, such as visas and transportation letters, and to ensure that a certain individual would be deported.

In late 2003, Butman allegedly advised Stachurski that they could solicit individuals with expired I-94 forms for cash payments to have Butman fraudulently reinstate and otherwise renew the forms, allowing those individuals to “legally” remain in the United States.

Stachurski, Bazula, Greszta and Szuba, as well as co-defendant **Kris Sarnecki**, 39, of Park Ridge, allegedly paid and caused bribes to be paid to induce Butman to violate his official duty as a CBP senior inspector. They also allegedly profited from the conspiracy by receiving unlawful immigration assistance from Butman and cash payments from individuals whom they referred to Butman. Sarnecki remains free on a \$10,000 personal recognizance bond following his arrest on a complaint on Aug. 24.

The remaining defendant, **Agnieszka Pentala**, also known as “Agnes Pentala” and “Aggie Pentala,” 31, of Park Ridge, allegedly paid a bribe to Butman to have him access CBP computer systems to verify her immigration status, and allegedly caused others to pay bribes to Butman for immigration assistance. She will be ordered to appear for arraignment.

The indictment seeks forfeiture of \$33,900 from Butman, Stachurski, Bazula and Greszta.

The extortion count alleges that Butman, Stachurski and Bazula sought to obtain \$10,000 from an individual in return for Butman’s agreement not to begin deportation proceedings against that individual and his wife.

The obstruction count alleges that Butman destroyed documents and directed Stachurski to destroy documents related to the alleged bribery and extortion offenses.

The government is being represented by Assistant United States Attorneys Michelle Nasser Weiss and Diane MacArthur.

If convicted, the crimes charged in the indictment carry maximum penalties ranging from 5 years to 20 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 on each count. The Court also must order restitution, and it will determine the appropriate sentence to be imposed.

The public is reminded that an indictment contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent and are entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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