



U.S. Department of Justice

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Eastern District of Michigan**

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For Immediate Release:

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Oct 14, 2008

EVENT: Indictment

Defendant: Chilakamarri Ramesh, M.D., et al

**WEST BLOOMFIELD PSYCHIATRIST, TWO OTHERS,
INDICTED FOR CITIZENSHIP FRAUD CONSPIRACY**

Defendant Alleged To Have Signed 953 False Citizenship Application Documents

A nine-count superseding indictment charging three defendants with conspiracy and naturalization fraud was returned by a federal grand jury this morning, Acting United States Attorney Terrence Berg announced. Berg was joined in the announcement by Brian M. Moskowitz, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Investigations in Detroit.

According to the indictment, Chilakamarri Ramesh, M.D., 54, of West Bloomfield, signed 953 false and fraudulent N-648 waiver forms on behalf of approximately 492 citizenship applicants located in or near Dearborn, Cleveland, St. Louis, and Chicago. An N-648 waiver form allows an applicant to seek and obtain United States citizenship without passing the English-proficiency portion of the naturalization exam. The indictment charges that Ramesh falsely diagnosed these individuals as suffering from mental defects – primarily mental

retardation, post-traumatic stress disorder, learning disabilities, and/or dementia – to help them avoid the English-language exam.

Also indicted in the case today were Walid Salah, Ph.D. and Samir Al-Kilaine, of New Jersey. Salah, a fugitive in Jordan, is alleged to have solicited and received sums of money – generally ranging from \$500 to \$2,300 – from citizenship applicants for the false waivers. Al-Kilaine is charged with acting as an Arabic-language interpreter between Ramesh and the citizenship applicants as well as accompanying the applicants to the INS office in Detroit for naturalization interviews knowing that the applicants had submitted false and fraudulent N-648s with their citizenship applications.

All three men are charged with operating the citizenship fraud conspiracy out of a now-defunct business called 4A's Hope, located at 10334 West Warren, Dearborn, Michigan.

Acting U.S. Attorney Terrence Berg said, "We must be vigilant to prevent fraud in connection with citizenship applications. Those who seek the privilege of becoming U.S. citizens must do so honestly and without any misrepresentations."

"We remain dedicated to preventing citizenship fraud and putting unrelenting pressure on these criminal groups," Moskowitz said.

An indictment is a charging document and not evidence of guilt. Each and every defendant is presumed to be innocent.

Ramesh will appear for arraignment in federal court on October 16. A trial is scheduled for November 17 before Judge Julian A. Cook, Jr.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Leonid Feller and Jonathan Tukel.