



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Ermira Hatija

**ALBANIAN CITIZEN PLEADS GUILTY TO ENGINEERING
IMPORTATION OF 14,000 ECSTACY PILLS**

Ermira Hatija, an Albanian citizen and former international fugitive, pled guilty in federal court today to felony drug charges, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced.

Joining in the announcement was Special Agent in Charge Brian Moskowitz of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Hatija pled guilty to conspiring to import ecstasy pills into the United States (ecstasy is 3,4 methylenedioxyamphetamine and is sometimes referred to as "MDMA") before United States District Judge Gerald E. Rosen.

Hatija conspired with at least three other individuals to import 14,000 ecstasy pills into the United States from Windsor, Ontario. On December 18, 2005, Bledian Baruti and Timour Golovin were arrested as they were crossing the Ambassador Bridge into Detroit. Customs officials discovered over 14,000 ecstasy pills concealed in their car. At her plea hearing, Hatija admitted that she had conspired with Baruti and the source of supply of the ecstasy pills to import the drugs into the United States. Hatija recruited Baruti to import the drugs. Baruti and

Golovin both pled guilty in the Eastern District of Michigan and are serving prison sentences for their involvement in the conspiracy.

Hatija was first arrested on April 19, 2006 in Detroit, Michigan. After being released on bond at that time, Hatija jumped bond and fled the United States. In August 2007, Hatija was caught in Germany after she used a false passport after she arrived in Germany on a flight from Canada. After the German authorities returned Hatija to Canada, the Canadian authorities expelled Hatija across the border into the United States in Montana. Hatija was then arrested in Montana and transported to Detroit to face the charges against her.

“United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the United States Marshal’s Service are to be commended for pursuing this international fugitive and ensuring that she be convicted and imprisoned for helping to engineer a significant importation of 14,000 ecstasy pills and then trying to flee the consequences of her actions,” United States Attorney Murphy said.

A conspiracy to import controlled substances into the United States is punishable by up to 20 years imprisonment. Sentencing in the case has been set for May 12, 2008 date has been set.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David Gardey.