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RSO Bangkok Sends Suspected Money Launderer to the Cleaners

U.S. fugitive Jep Benjamin Ginn, Jr., was apprehended at his home in Pattaya, Thailand, by the Thai Tourist Police in February 2004. Ginn was the subject of an IRS investigation and had been indicted for money laundering in September 2003 in the Southern District of West Virginia. Detained in the Thai Immigration Detention Center in Bangkok while awaiting a deportation hearing, he was subsequently deported by Thai officials from Bangkok and immediately taken into custody by deputy U.S. marshals.

The IRS attaché in Hong Kong requested assistance from the regional security officer in Bangkok in November 2003. The high-profile IRS case involved Ginn and his wife Pasquana, both of whom had reportedly been laundering money for years. They owned a company that provided high-tech support for major cable television companies throughout the mid-Atlantic region.

A Diplomatic Security special agent in Bangkok coordinated with the State Department's Consular Affairs and Office of International Affairs (OIA) in an attempt to have a provisional arrest warrant issued in Ginn's name so the Thais could arrest and deport him. Unfortunately, provisional arrest warrants take some time to obtain, so Diplomatic Security asked OIA to request that Ginn's passport be cancelled.

Since a provisional warrant for the arrest of Ginn in Thailand was not yet available, and he had not committed any crimes in Thailand, Ginn's passport was revoked to give the Thais a reason to arrest him.

After Ginn's passport was cancelled, DS asked the Thai Immigration Bureau for assistance and obtained Ginn's travel habits between Thailand and Cambodia from October 2002 to October 2003. Luckily, Ginn presented himself at a Thai port of entry on the eastern border near Cambodia in January 2004. The regional security officer in Bangkok had already coordinated with the Thai Immigration Bureau, placing Ginn's name in the Thai immigration lookout system. Therefore Thai officials were able to provide DS agents in Thailand with Ginn's current, and previously unknown, Thai address.

DS agents and the Thai Tourist Police conducted surveillance on Ginn's residence. The police arrested Ginn at home and transported him to Tourist Police headquarters in Bangkok where he was positively identified. Thai Tourist Police officials confiscated Ginn's new Isuzu pickup truck as well as over 4.5 million in Thai baht (\$100,000 U.S.).

Ginn is currently being detained in Guam and will likely face substantial time in prison. ⚙

