

U.S. Department of Justice

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announces the return of a federal indictment charging Gassan Aboulhosn, age 41, of Chester, Virginia, with 55 counts of money laundering, currency structuring and obstruction of justice. If convicted, Aboulhosn faces a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment on each money laundering count, 5 years imprisonment on each structuring count, and 5 years imprisonment on the obstruction of justice count.

The indictment alleges that Gassan Aboulhosn is the owner, salesman and operator of Quality Auto Sales, located in Chesterfield County, Virginia. Quality Auto Sales sells a variety of late model and luxury vehicles. The indictment alleges that Aboulhosn conducted transactions involving \$10,000 or more in cash and failed to file the appropriate forms with the IRS. Federal law requires that all cash sales in excess of \$10,000.00 be reported to the Internal Revenue Service. The indictment also alleges that Aboulhosn conducted over \$400,000 in sales of automobiles to drug dealers and employed straw purchasers.

Specifically, the indictment alleges that in January and February 2003, an undercover agent of the IRS negotiated with Aboulhosn for the purchase of a 1999 Ford Expedition listed at Quality Auto Sales for \$20,100. Aboulhosn instructed the undercover agent to structure the transaction to avoid the IRS reporting requirements. In addition, he listed the owner of the vehicle in the name of a straw purchaser and falsified the sales price on the bill of sale. The indictment also alleges that Aboulhosn conspired with various drug dealers to conceal and disguise the nature and source of the proceeds of their illegal activity.

The indictment also alleges that after receiving notice from a customer that his 1996 Nissan Maxima and two other vehicles were seized by the DEA and were subject to forfeiture proceedings, Aboulhosn falsified documents and submitted them to the DEA. The documents reported false outstanding liens on the seized vehicles when, in fact, Aboulhosn knew the customer had paid in full for the vehicles and there were no liens.

Also announcing the indictment is Susan M. Dukes, Special Agent-in-Charge, Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation.

The case is being investigated by the IRS. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michael C. Wallace, Sr.