



U. S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Washington

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Friday, March 14, 2008	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Rice, First Assistant U.S. Attorney (509) 353-2767
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ELLENSBURG MAN INDICTED FOR STRUCTURING OVER \$4 MILLION IN CURRENCY DEPOSITS TO LOCAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

The Indictment Seeks a Forfeiture of over \$4 Million

Yakima – Today, James A. McDevitt, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, announced that a federal grand jury returned a 204 count Indictment against GURMIT SINGH KAILA, age 52, of Ellensburg, Washington. The Indictment charges KAILA with 203 counts of structuring financial transactions and one forfeiture count.

The Indictment alleges that GURMIT SINGH KAILA knowingly and for the purpose of evading the reporting requirements, structured and assisted in the structuring 203 deposits of currency, all in amounts less than \$10,000, with Yakima Federal Savings and Loan Association and with Cashmere Valley Bank, between March, 2003 and August, 2007. The Indictment also seeks the forfeiture of \$407,759.86 in U. S. funds seized on October 30, 2007, from three Yakima Federal Savings and Loan accounts held in the names of GURMIT S. KAILA and/or Big B Mini Mart. The Indictment also seeks the forfeiture of a sum of money equal to \$4,047,752 in United States currency, representing the amount involved in the structuring.

“Compliance with financial reporting laws is crucial to ensuring the integrity of our nation’s financial system,” said Leigh Winchell, who oversees the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s office of investigations. “ICE remains committed to investigating financial crimes, including structuring, in an effort to deter others from benefitting financially from this type of illegal activity.”

Structuring is the breaking up of transactions for the purpose of evading the Bank Secrecy Act reporting and recordkeeping requirements. Structuring can take two basic forms. First, a customer might deposit currency on multiple days in amounts under \$10,000 (e.g., \$9,900.00) for the intended purpose of circumventing a financial institution’s obligation to report any cash deposit over \$10,000 on a currency transaction report. In another variation on basic

structuring, a customer or customers may engage in multiple transactions during one day or over a period of several days or more, in one or more branches of a bank or credit union, in a manner intended to circumvent either the currency transaction reporting requirement, or some other Bank Secrecy Act requirement. Structuring is unlawful under the Bank Secrecy Act.

FINCEN Forms 104, Currency Transaction Reports, when required, are filed by financial institutions with the Enterprise Computing Center in Detroit, MI by the 15th calendar day after the day of the transaction. This form and the specific reporting instructions are available for download on the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network's Web site at www.fincen.gov, or may be ordered by calling the IRS Forms Distribution Center at (800) 829-3676.

The maximum penalty which can be imposed for the crime of structuring is five years imprisonment, followed by court supervision for three years and a \$250,000 fine.

The Immigration & Customs Enforcement; the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation; the Ellensburg Police Department; the Yakima Police Department and the Central Washington University Police Department joined forces to investigate this case.

An Indictment Contains Allegations That a Defendant Has Committed a Crime. Every Defendant Is Presumed Innocent Until and Unless Proven Guilty Beyond a Reasonable Doubt.

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