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October 22, 2008

For Immediate Release

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**New Jersey Man Found Guilty of Conspiring to Distribute Crack Cocaine
Portland Man Sentenced to 12+ Years**

Portland, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced today that yesterday afternoon a federal jury found Stephen Ramnath, age 33, guilty of conspiring to distribute and possess with intent to distribute more than 50 grams of cocaine base, also known as crack cocaine.

According to the government's evidence introduced at trial, agents with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) conducted a court authorized wiretap of a telephone used by Hussein Al-Rikabi – one of Ramnath's co-conspirators – for several months during the summer of 2007. During this time, agents intercepted several drug related telephone calls in which Al-Rikabi was arranging to purchase crack cocaine from Ramnath. Al-Rikabi would travel to New Jersey to pick up crack cocaine from Ramnath and return to Maine to sell the crack in the greater Portland area.

The Court has not yet set a sentencing date. Under federal law, and because of the quantity of crack cocaine involved in this offense, Ramnath faces a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of ten years and a maximum of life.

Al-Rikabi, who is 37 and from Portland, was sentenced on October 15, 2008 in U.S. District Court to 151 months in prison for his role in trafficking crack cocaine. U.S. Chief District Judge George Z. Singal imposed the sentence following a March 2008 trial in which a federal jury found Al-Rikabi guilty of conspiring to distribute and possess with intent to distribute crack cocaine, as well as distribution of crack cocaine.

United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigative efforts of DEA, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency and the Passaic County Sheriff's Office in New Jersey.