



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias  
Northern District of Georgia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

04/28/09

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan/>

CONTACT: Patrick Crosby

(404)581-6016

FAX (404)581-6160

## **AIRLINE PASSENGER PLEADS GUILTY TO ATTEMPTING TO SMUGGLE MORE THAN 2 POUNDS OF HEROIN INTO THE UNITED STATES**

ATLANTA, GA - ZANADA MOSES, 25, of Baltimore, Maryland, pleaded guilty today in federal district court to importing heroin into the United States and possessing heroin with the intent to distribute it.

David E. Nahmias, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia, said, "In cooperation with our law enforcement partners, we remain committed to thwarting the importation of narcotics into our country through our busy international airport. This case should be another stinging reminder to those tempted by the spoils of drug trafficking – it is a trade fraught with peril. If you are caught smuggling narcotics into the United States at Atlanta's airport, you will face serious prison time."

Kenneth Smith, Special Agent in Charge of Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Office of Investigations in Atlanta, said "Public safety is one of our major priorities and we will continue working closely with our Department of Homeland Security partners to detect those who try to smuggle contraband through our ports-of-entry. Our special agents, inspectors, and screeners have the technical expertise, resources and technology to detect illegal merchandise and contraband in our ports."

Robert C. Gomez, CBP Director of Operations in Atlanta, said: "This prosecution demonstrates the partnership Customs and Border Protection (CBP) maintains with federal, state and local agencies to effect the apprehension and prosecution of individuals who try to smuggle narcotics through our ports-of-entry. This case highlights the skill and knowledge of our CBP officers."

According to United States Attorney Nahmias, the charges and other information presented in court: On January 15, 2009, MOSES, a United States citizen, arrived at Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport from Panama City, Panama. During a customs inspection, law enforcement officers recovered more than 2 pounds of heroin from in and on MOSES's body. After being advised of her rights, MOSES admitted that she was going to be paid \$20,000 for smuggling the drugs into the United States. The heroin has an estimated street value of \$1,000,000.

MOSES was indicted in February 2009 on one count each of importation of heroin and possession of heroin with the intent to distribute it. She pleaded guilty to both counts of the indictment. MOSES could receive a maximum sentence of up to 40 years in prison and a fine of up to \$2,000,000. In determining the actual sentence, the Court will consider the United States Sentencing Guidelines, which are not binding but provide appropriate sentencing ranges for most offenders.

Sentencing is scheduled for June 11, 2009, at 2 p.m., before United States District Judge Richard W. Story.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Atlanta recommends parents and children learn about the dangers of drugs at the following web site: [www.justthinktwice.com](http://www.justthinktwice.com).

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Officers of Customs and Border Protection.

Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey W. Davis is prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is [www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan).