



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:
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January 16, 2009

Event: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Najib Shemami

**STERLING HEIGHTS MAN PLEADS GUILTY
TO ACTING AS AGENT FOR FORMER IRAQI GOVERNMENT**

A Sterling Heights man pled guilty today to providing military information to the Iraqi Intelligence Service under the government of Saddam Hussein, Acting United States Attorney Terrence Berg announced today.

Berg was joined in the announcement by Andrew G. Arena, FBI Special Agent in Charge.

Najib Shemami, 60, of Sterling Heights, pled guilty before Judge Avern Cohn to violating the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

According to the plea agreement, Shemami traveled to Iraq and met with officers of the Iraqi Intelligence Service in December 2002. Shemami reported information relating to the activities of Iraqi expatriates in the United States, potential candidates for political office in Iraq, and U.S. and Turkish military activities he had observed in Turkey before the U.S. entry into Iraq in 2003.

United States Attorney Berg stated, "Reporting back to a foreign intelligence agency on the activities of Iraqis living in the United States clearly puts those individuals and their families

at risk. Providing military information on the eve of war risks grave harm to our troops.”

Sentencing was scheduled for May 11, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. before Judge Nancy G. Edmunds.

The case was investigated by Special Agents of the FBI.