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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THREE MEN INDICTED FOR DEALING IN DEFENSE SECRETS  
AND EXPORTING MILITARY EQUIPMENT**

FRESNO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott, Special Agent in Charge (SAC) Drew S. Parenti of the Sacramento Field Division of the FBI, Bakersfield Police Chief William Rector, Kern County Sheriff Mack Wimbish, and SAC Charles DeMore of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Office of Investigations in San Francisco announced today that AMEN AHMED ALI, 56, of Bakersfield, also known as Ali Amin Alrowhani, Amin Al Rohany or Ameen Alrohany, and two associates were indicted by a federal grand jury in Fresno on charges relating to the acquisition and transmission of secret defense information and the export of stolen and sensitive military equipment.

The indictment alleges that on multiple occasions, between June 25, 2005 and August 31, 2006, ALI received secret defense documents from a government undercover agent. He then transmitted them to the Republic of Yemen, both by fax transmission and by courier.

In addition, ALI is charged with conspiring with IBRAHIM A. OMER, 40, who currently resides in Fort Worth, Texas, to ship military items to Yemen, the export of which is restricted under federal law. The indictment alleges that between January 13, 2003 and February 14, 2004, ALI and OMER conspired to violate the Arms Export Control Act and the International Traffic in Arms Regulations by shipping several military articles, including body armor and chemical protective suits. These items cannot be legally exported from the United States without authorization from the Department of State. In addition, they are both charged with attempting to avoid the export restrictions.

ALI is also charged with conspiring with MOHAMED AL-RAHIMI, 62, also of Bakersfield, to receive stolen government property which was also sent to Yemen. The indictment alleges that ALI purchased military equipment which he believed to have been stolen from the United States Army, and then directed it to be shipped to Yemen. It is alleged that AL-RAHIMI traveled to Yemen to broker the sale of the items.

The indictment is the result of a long-term, and ongoing investigation by the Joint Terrorism Task Force, which involved members of the FBI, Bakersfield Police Department, and the Kern County Sheriff's Office, and the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

During the course of today's operation, which included the execution of search warrants and the arrests of ALI and OMER, assistance was provided by Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the United States Probation Office.

In announcing the indictment, Scott said, "We will use all appropriate legal means at our disposal to detect, disrupt, and hold accountable those who seek to do us harm, whether they act within or outside our borders. This investigation is a sterling example of effective cooperation between federal and local law enforcement agencies to protect our national security and promote public safety."

SAC Parenti stated, "In this instance the FBI and the Bakersfield JTTF, including the Bakersfield Police Department and the Kern County Sheriff's Department have, along with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, worked over an extended period of time to bring this investigation to today's juncture. The JTTF will continue to work cooperatively to prevent any threat to this country's resources."

"ICE is firmly committed to working with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in our nation's joint terrorism task forces to protect our country from those who potentially pose a threat," said Charles DeMore, special agent in charge of ICE's office of investigations in San Francisco.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Carl M. Faller, who is prosecuting the case, the defendants face the following maximum penalties as to each count:

COUNT ONE (ALI) - Conspiracy to Possess and Transmit Defense Information - 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

COUNT TWO (ALI and OMER) - Conspiracy to Unlawfully Export Defense Articles - 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

COUNT THREE (ALI and OMER) - Attempted Unlawful Export of Defense Articles - 10 years in prison and a \$1,000,000 fine.

COUNT FOUR (ALI and AL-RAHIMI) - Conspiracy to Possess Stolen Government Property - 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

ALI was arrested in Bakersfield earlier today and will appear before United States Magistrate Theresa A. Goldner in Bakersfield tomorrow afternoon at 1:30 p.m. OMER was taken into custody in Bossier City, Louisiana, and will make his first court appearance tomorrow in Shreveport, Louisiana. AL-RAHIMI remains at large; anyone having information regarding his whereabouts is urged to call the Bakersfield Resident Office of the FBI at 661-323-9665.

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