



U.S. Department of State

*Office of Inspector General
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PRESS RELEASE:

**LOCAL EMPLOYEE PLEADS GUILTY TO STEALING MONEY
FROM UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN MOZAMBIQUE**

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WASHINGTON –The Inspector General for the United States Department of State (DOS) announced that MUFTAR ALI, age 43, pled guilty on December 29, 2005, in federal court in Charleston to stealing \$200,000 from the United States Embassy and the United States Agency for International Development Mission in Maputo.

United States District Judge Patrick Michael Duffy accepted ALI's guilty plea and will impose sentence after he has reviewed the pre-sentence report, which will be prepared by the U.S. Probation Office. Evidence presented at the guilty plea hearing established that the thefts occurred in 2003 when ALI, a citizen of Mozambique, worked as a cashier for the embassy and the mission.

The case against ALI was prosecuted in Charleston because the accounting services are provided by the United States Department of State's Financial Services Center located in Charleston. The maximum penalty ALI can receive is a fine of \$250,000 and/or imprisonment for ten years.

The case was investigated by agents with the Offices of the Inspector General for the United States Agency for International Development and the Department of State. Assistant United States Attorney Brent Alan Gray of the Charleston office handled the case.

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