



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Two Former Delta Ticket Agents and King Airport Luggage Handler
Indicted in Alien Smuggling Scheme

St. Thomas, USVI - A federal grand jury on St. Thomas has returned a six-count indictment against two former Delta Airlines reservations and passenger service agents and a luggage handler at the Cyril E. King Airport, U.S. Attorney Paul A. Murphy, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Resident Agent-in-Charge Hillary Hodge and Resident Agent-in-Charge Dennis M. McGunagle, Jr., Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General, announced today.

The indictment charges Diana Telemaque, 33, Felicia Browne, 22, and Daniel Confidente, 47, with conspiracy to smuggle illegal aliens into the United States and alien smuggling from about May 2008 through July 19, 2009. Telemaque is charged with five counts, Confidente with four counts and Browne with three counts.

All three defendants were arrested on September 4, 2009 and were advised of their rights by the federal magistrate judge. Each of them was released on a \$10,000 unsecured bond.

According to court documents filed in this case, the defendants used their positions as reservations and passenger service agents and as a curbside baggage handler to sell passage on a

commercial aircraft to illegal aliens, and to assist them in bypassing the Customs and Immigration checkpoint and board Delta Airlines flights to the United States.

If convicted, Telemaque, Browne and Confidente face a maximum of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for each count. All three defendants also face criminal forfeiture of the proceeds of their offenses.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney St. Clair Theodore. The matter continues to be investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General.

An indictment contains only allegations and defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.