



Department of Justice

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TWO INDICTED ON IMMIGRATION CONSPIRACY CHARGES

Duluth School Used to Issue Fraudulent Immigration Documents to Unlawful Aliens

ATLANTA, GA - SONGWOO SHIM, 47, of Lawrenceville, Georgia, and IN YOUNG PARK, 36, of Duluth, Georgia, have been indicted by a federal grand jury on felony charges for conspiring to encourage and induce aliens to reside unlawfully in the United States and for manufacturing fraudulent documents, including fraudulent government identification documents. SHIM was also indicted on a conspiracy charge, for presenting a fraudulent application to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to obtain approved status for an English language school for Korean-speaking persons, "Humana Language Learning Center," located in Duluth, Georgia. SHIM and PARK are scheduled for a bond hearing on Thursday, April 23, 2009, at 10 a.m., before Magistrate Judge Janet F. King.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said, "Defendant Shim allegedly obtained approval for an English language school based on a fraudulent application he submitted to the Department of Homeland Security. The two defendants then allegedly used the illegitimate school as a vehicle to obtain fraudulent immigration documents for dozens, and perhaps hundreds, of purported 'students,' most of whom never attended the school, to enable them to stay in the United States illegally. We will continue to dismantle and prosecute such schemes designed to thwart our immigration laws."

Kenneth Smith, Special Agent in Charge of ICE's Office of Investigations in Atlanta, said, "ICE is committed to working with its law enforcement partners to identify, arrest and prosecute those who violate our laws. Those who engage in illegal activity should know that we will hold them accountable for their actions."

According to United States Attorney Nahmias, the charges and other information presented in court: SHIM allegedly submitted a fraudulent I-17 petition to the DHS Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP), supported by letters of support supposedly authored by three educational institutions of higher learning. SEVP is the DHS program that provides approval and oversight to schools authorized to enroll non-

immigrant students and issue “form I-20's” enabling the students to stay in the United States.

Non-accredited educational institutions seeking SEVP certification must submit letters from three institutions that are accredited by the United States Department of Education stating that the institutions have accepted transfer credits unconditionally on behalf of the students. The letters submitted by SHIM allegedly were either forged or obtained by fraudulent means without the other institutions’ knowledge. In 2006, DHS awarded SEVP-approved status to the Humana Language Learning Center, which SHIM managed and operated, based on the fraudulent I-17 petition he submitted.

According to the indictment, once SHIM fraudulently obtained SEVP certification for Humana Language Learning Center, he and co-defendant PARK began facilitating the issuance of F-1 student visas to foreign-born individuals who were not entitled to, or eligible for, the visas. The defendants allegedly manufactured and provided false documents, including resumes, school transcripts, diplomas, financial plans and statements, and I-94 forms, to the aliens to be used in support of applications for F-1 nonimmigrant student status. The defendants maintained a document lab with computer equipment and files, first in an apartment in Alpharetta and then in Duluth, where they allegedly manufactured the fraudulent documents. Although Humana Language Learning Center reported to DHS that it had enrolled hundreds of students, the vast majority of the aliens who obtained F-1 status never attended Humana Language Learning Center but instead began living and working in this country. SHIM charged the aliens thousands of dollars for the fraudulent documents he provided them for the purpose of obtaining F-1 status.

The indictment charges two counts of conspiracy. The charges carry a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$500,000.

Members of the public are reminded that the indictment contains only allegations. A defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of the United States Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, (ICE) the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Document and Benefit Fraud Task Force, (DBFTF), a multi-law enforcement agency task force, which includes the DeKalb County Police Department, Hall County Sheriff's Office, Whitfield County Sheriff's Office, the Dalton Police Department, the Georgia Department of Driver's Services, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI), Citizenship and Immigration Services, the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Social Security Administration, Office of the Inspector General, and U.S. Department of State. Significant assistance in this case has also been provided by the Gwinnett County Police Department.

Assistant United States Attorneys Teresa D. Hoyt and Stephen H. McClain are 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.