



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
District of Maryland

Rod J. Rosenstein
United States Attorney

Vickie E. LeDuc
Public Information Officer

36 S. Charles Street
Fourth Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2692

410-209-4800
TTY/TDD: 410-962-4462
410-209-4885
FAX 410-962-3091
Vickie.LeDuc@usdoj.gov

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CONTACT AUSA VICKIE E. LEDUC or
MARCIA MURPHY at (410) 209-4885

**EIGHT DEFENDANTS INDICTED FOR MANUFACTURING AND SELLING
THOUSANDS OF FAKE IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS
FOR OVER \$1.68 MILLION**

*Organization Allegedly Operated in the 200 Block of South Broadway
in Baltimore for Almost Three Years*

Baltimore, Maryland - A federal grand jury has indicted eight members of an organization that allegedly operated in the 200 block of South Broadway in Baltimore (the "Broadway Territory"), selling over \$1.68 million in fraudulent government identification documents that they manufactured. The indictment was returned on July 27, 2011, and unsealed today after the defendants were arrested. Approximately 70 state, local and federal law enforcement officials executed seven search warrants.

The following individuals, all living in Baltimore, are charged in the indictment with conspiring to manufacture fake identity documents from June 2008 to July 27, 2011, and selling the fake documents in the Broadway Territory:

Ivan Altamirano-Perez, a/k/a "Elmer," age 30
Roberto Morales-Perez, a/k/a "Piza," age 25;
Miguel Reyes-Ontiveros, age 41;
Adrian Badillo-Carrasco, a/k/a "Rana," age 34;
Cristian Fuentes-Valle, a/k/a "Honduras," age 30;
John Doe No. 1, a/k/a "Paisa and Omar";
John Doe No. 2, a/k/a "Chino, Morro and Doblón"; and
Juan Merlin-Gonzalez, age 34.

The indictment was announced by United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein; Special Agent in Charge William Winter of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations; Special Agent in Charge Michael McGill of the Social Security Administration - Office of Inspector General, Philadelphia Field Division; Special Agent in Charge John Schilling of the U.S. State Department Diplomatic Security Service - Washington Field Office; John Kuo, Administrator of the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration - Investigation and Security Services Division; and Chief James W. Johnson of the Baltimore County Police Department.

“Targeting document fraud schemes is a top enforcement priority for Homeland Security Investigations (HSI),” said William Winter, Special Agent in Charge of ICE HSI in Baltimore. “Document fraud puts the security of our communities and even our country at risk by creating vulnerabilities that could be exploited by dangerous criminals. This crime is extremely lucrative, but our agents and our law enforcement partners in Maryland are determined to bring these criminals to justice.”

According to the 32-count indictment, defendants Altamirano-Perez, Morales-Perez and Reyes-Ontiveros, referred to in the indictment as the “Broadway Mill Operators,” allegedly manufactured the fraudulent identification documents, including permanent resident cards and social security cards. The defendants allegedly solicited individuals in the Broadway Territory to purchase fake identification documents. The indictment alleges that the defendants received photographs and personal information from the individuals ordering the documents, which were then delivered to the Broadway Mill Operators in order to manufacture the fraudulent documents. The defendants allegedly paid the Broadway Mill Operators approximately \$80 per set for manufacturing the fake documents, and delivered the documents to the customers, collecting a fee from the customer for the documents.

The indictment alleges that the defendants controlled the Broadway Territory by using force and the threat of force against any individual selling fraudulent documents not manufactured by the Broadway Mill Operators.

The indictment alleges that during the course of the conspiracy, the defendants manufactured and transferred thousands of fraudulent identification documents for which they received approximately \$1.68 million, which is the amount the government seeks in forfeiture.

Each defendant faces a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison for conspiracy to commit fraud in connection with identification documents and for each count of the transfer of false identification documents; a maximum of 10 years in prison for each count of fraud and misuse of immigration documents; and a maximum of five years in prison for each count of social security fraud. In addition, Altamirano-Perez, Morales-Perez and Reyes-Ontiveros each face a maximum of 15 years in prison for production of false identification documents. The defendants are expected to have their initial appearances this afternoon in U.S. District Court in Baltimore.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein praised ICE - Homeland Security Investigations; the Social Security Administration - Office of Inspector General; the U.S. State Department Diplomatic Security Service - Washington Field Office; the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration - Investigation and Security Services Division; and the Baltimore County Police Department for their work in the investigation. Mr. Rosenstein thanked Assistant United States Attorney Tamera L. Fine, who is prosecuting the case.