



U.S. Department of Justice

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**For Immediate Release:
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Event: Sentenced

Defendant: Bile Awil Abdullahi

MINNESOTA MAN SENTENCED TO 24 MONTHS FOR AGGRAVATED IDENTITY THEFT

Bile Awil Abdullahi, 23, of Minneapolis, Minnesota was sentenced to 24 months in federal prison today for Aggravated Identity Theft, United States Attorney Terrence Berg announced.

Joined in the announcement was Brian Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Office of Investigations for Ohio and Michigan. The sentence was handed down by U.S. District Judge Robert H. Cleland following Mr. Abdullahi's guilty plea on June 16, 2009.

On January 18 and 19, 2009, Bile Abdullahi, a native and citizen of Somalia, attempted to enter Canada at the Detroit, Michigan/ Ontario, Canada border falsely claiming to be a United States citizen. As proof of citizenship, Bile Abdullahi presented a valid U.S. passport in the name of Hussein Awil Abdullahi to Border Patrol Agents and to U.S. Customs and Border Patrol officials falsely claiming to be the U.S. citizen shown on the passport.

United States Attorney Terrence Berg said, "A clear threat is present any time a person tries to gain access to the United States by using a false passport. In this case, the Border Patrol and ICE were able to catch the attempted illegal entry under false passport, and they are to be commended for their vigilance and professionalism."

"Using another individual's identification documents and providing false information to federal law enforcement officers are serious offenses which are vigorously investigated and prosecuted across the northern border," said Moskowitz. "The sentencing today reflects the commitment of ICE and the U.S. Attorney's Office to ensure that those who defy these laws will suffer the consequences."

U.S. Attorney Berg commended ICE, the Border Patrol, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection for their diligent and thorough investigation leading to the successful prosecution of Bile Awil Abdullahi. The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Kenneth Chadwell.