



U.S. Department of Justice

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**For Immediate Release:
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Event: Conviction

Defendant: Eskender Henareh Mafarani

**ONTARIO MAN CONVICTED
ON FEDERAL BULK CASH SMUGGLING OFFENSE**

A 53-year-old Canadian man from Richmond Hill, Ontario was found guilty today by a federal jury in Detroit on a charge of bulk cash smuggling, United States Attorney Terrence Berg announced today.

Berg was joined in the announcement by Brian Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge, Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Found guilty was Eskender Henareh Mafarani. He was also convicted of making a material false statement to law enforcement agents.

The jury verdict concluded a one-week trial before United States District Judge David M. Lawson.

The evidence presented at trial showed that Mafarani, with the intent to evade currency reporting requirements, knowingly concealed more than two million dollars in U.S. currency and attempted, on November 7, 2008, to bring that currency across the Ambassador Bridge from Canada into the United States. A search of the tractor-trailer driven by Mafarani resulted in the discovery of \$2,095,180 in U.S. currency and \$1,120 in Canadian currency hidden inside the walls of Mafarani's truck.

The jury also returned a special verdict of forfeiture, finding that certain properties were involved in Mafarani's bulk cash smuggling offense. The four properties forfeited to the United States include: \$2,095,180 in U.S. currency; \$1,120 in Canadian currency; one 2008 Volvo Truck; and one 2003 Utility commercial trailer.

United States Attorney Terrence Berg said, "Bringing millions of dollars across the border from Canada to the US hidden inside the walls of a tractor-trailer is clear-cut example of illegal bulk cash smuggling. We must be vigilant in enforcing violations of the bulk cash smuggling statute because this law is an effective tool in our arsenal for combating the movement of large sums of currency by those trying to launder the proceeds of crime."

Berg commended the work of the agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the officers of the United States Customs and Border Protection in the investigation.

A sentencing date has been set for October 28, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. Mafarani faces up to five years imprisonment. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Michael Martin and Rita Foley.