



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
District of Minnesota**

**Frank J. Magill,
United States Attorney**

David Anderson, Public Affairs Specialist
(612) 664-5684; cell: (612) 730-2251

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, Jan. 9, 2009

Minneapolis man pleads guilty to counterfeiting

A 20-year-old Minneapolis man pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court to counterfeiting United States currency.

Nijm Mukhtar El-Amin Scott pleaded guilty to one count of manufacturing counterfeit currency. He entered his plea Jan. 8 in St. Paul before U.S. District Court Judge Paul Magnuson. Scott was indicted on Nov. 18, 2008.

According to Scott's plea agreement, he admitted that from Oct. 23 through Oct. 24, 2008, he knowingly manufactured counterfeit \$100 bills with the intent to defraud. Scott also admitted that he used a computer and other equipment to manufacture the counterfeit currency out of real \$5 bills. The total amount of counterfeit currency Scott manufactured was between \$10,000 and \$30,000.

Scott admitted that he passed some of the counterfeit bills at area retailers to purchase expensive electronic items which he would then return for a cash refund.

According to a U.S. Secret Service affidavit, on Oct. 23 Scott purchased a DVD player and GPS navigation system at a Wal-Mart in Fridley, paying with six \$100 bills that were counterfeit. Also on Oct. 23, he purchased a \$300 DVD recorder and other items at a different Wal-Mart, again paying with six \$100 bills that were counterfeit.

An employee provided a license number of the vehicle Scott had been driving, which was registered to Scott's girlfriend. On Oct. 24, police executed a search warrant at the girlfriend's Fridley residence. Scott was in the apartment and appeared to be in the process of manufacturing counterfeit money, and a number of counterfeit \$100 bills were spread out on the living room floor, along with a computer, a printer and bleached \$5 bills.

Approximately \$16,000 in counterfeit \$100 bills were recovered from the apartment, along with the DVD player and GPS navigation system purchased the day before.

Scott faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. Judge Magnuson will

determine his sentence at a future date.

This case is the result of an investigation by the U.S. Secret Service and the Fridley Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey S. Paulsen.