



***United States Attorney
District of New Jersey***

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**DOMINICAN NATIONAL SENTENCED TO TWO YEARS IN PRISON
FOR POSSESSION OF ILLEGAL CREDIT CARD-MAKING EQUIPMENT**

CAMDEN, N.J. – A man who attempted to smuggle illegal credit card-making equipment from Ohio into New Jersey was sentenced today to 24 months in federal prison for possessing a carload of unlawful equipment, United States Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

Fernando Ramirez Marzan, 24, of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, pleaded guilty on January 25, 2010, before United States District Judge Noel L. Hillman to count one of a two-count Indictment charging him with trafficking in and possession of device-making equipment with the intent to defraud. Judge Hillman also imposed sentence today in Camden federal court.

At his plea hearing, Ramirez admitted that he was a passenger in a 2003 Acura loaded with specialized equipment for use in creating fraudulent credit cards that he was moving from Ohio to New Jersey for the purpose of committing fraud. On March 5, 2009, Byram Township police officers stopped Ramirez and the driver of the car, Carlos Pimentel Porquin, after Pimentel drove erratically away from a gas station where he had used a fraudulent credit card to purchase gasoline.

The equipment in the Acura included hundreds of credit cards in various states of production; credit card printers; foil tippers used to highlight lettering and numbers on fraudulent credit cards; card embossers; holograms that mimicked authenticating holograms from Visa and other branded credit cards; card readers and recorders used to read and encode data on credit cards; and several hundred credit cards which were blank or in various states of production. Arresting officers also seized four computers and various memory devices which contained credit card numbers belonging to individuals in Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Canada, Europe and Central America. Ramirez Marzan admitted that he intended to use the cards to obtain goods for resale without paying for them.

Ramirez and Pimentel were each charged by complaint on May 14, 2009. Pimentel pleaded guilty before Judge Hillman to possessing device-making equipment with the intent to defraud on October 7, 2009, and was sentenced on September 28, 2010, to a year and a day in prison.

In addition to the prison term, Judge Hillman sentenced Ramirez to three years of supervised release and ordered him to pay restitution in the amount of \$35,938.81. Ramirez also agreed to forfeit his rights to the equipment seized from the Acura. Ramirez, who is not in the United States legally, has been detained since his arrest.

U.S. Attorney Fishman praised special agents of the United States Secret Service, under the direction of Acting Special Agent in Charge James Mottola in Newark; the Byram Township Police Department, under the direction of Chief Raymond F. Rafferty; and the Sussex County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor David J. Weaver, for the investigation leading to today's sentence.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Seth B. Kosto of the United States Attorney's Office Economic Crimes Unit in Newark.

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Defense counsel: Ramon Pagan, Esq., Bronx, New York