



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 30, 2008**

**CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
YUSILL SCRIBNER
REBEKAH CARMICHAEL
JANICE OH
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600**

**USPIS
AL WEISSMANN
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 330-2270**

BROOKLYN MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO IDENTITY THEFT SCHEME

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and RONALD J. VERROCHIO, Inspector-in-Charge of the New York Office of the United States Postal Inspection Service ("USPIS"), announced that BANKY ADEBANJO pleaded guilty today to charges arising out of his participation in an identity-theft ring responsible for stealing hundreds of credit reports from TransUnion LLC. According to the Complaint, the Indictment and statements made in court in connection with ADEBANJO's guilty plea:

ADEBANJO and others engaged in a scheme to steal the identity information belonging to hundreds of individual victims and then use that stolen information to steal hundreds of thousands of dollars. ADEBANJO gained access to his victims' identity information by sending letters to TransUnion LLC, the credit reporting agency, purporting to be from his victims, requesting a copy of the individual's credit report and changing the individual's address to mailboxes controlled by ADEBANJO. ADEBANJO then used the credit reports he obtained to, among other things, make purchases and obtain credit from banks without authorization. After ADEBANJO's arrest, law enforcement officers conducted a search of a bank safe deposit box that was used by ADEBANJO, from which nearly \$800,000 in cash and money orders were seized, as well as a passport and other identification documents that ADEBANJO had obtained using another individual's identity without authorization.

ADEBANJO pleaded guilty before United States Magistrate Judge MICHAEL H. DOLINGER. He will be sentenced before the Honorable LORETTA A. PRESKA at a date to be scheduled.

ADEBANJO, 37, lived in Brooklyn, New York, until his arrest. He pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud and faces a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison and a fine of \$1 million. He also agreed to forfeiture of \$796,865 in United States currency and money orders seized from the safe deposit box used by ADEBANJO.

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative work of the USPIS.

The prosecution is being handled by the Office's Major Crimes Unit. Assistant United States Attorneys JOSEPH P. FACCIPONTI and MARGARET GARNETT are in charge of the prosecution.

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