

KALONJI pleaded guilty this afternoon before United States District Judge PAUL A. CROTTY and is scheduled to be sentenced on January 6, 2009, at 3 p.m.

KALONJI, 27, is a native of the Republic of the Congo and until his arrest, lived in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. He pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit bank and wire fraud and faces a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison.

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and thanked the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for its assistance in this case.

The prosecution is being handled by the Office's Major Crimes and Computer Hacking/Intellectual Property Unit. Assistant United States Attorney MARCUS A. ASNER is in charge of the prosecution.

If you believe you were a victim of this crime, including a victim entitled to restitution, and you wish to provide information to law enforcement and/or receive notice of future developments in the case or additional information, please contact Wendy Olsen-Clancy, the Victim Witness Coordinator at the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, at (866) 874-8900 or Wendy.Olsen@usdoj.gov. For additional information, go to: <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nys/victimwitness.html> on the Internet.

Additionally, if you believe you were a victim of this crime, the United States Attorney's Office recommends that you take steps to protect yourself from financial loss if you have not done so already. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in Washington has the lead role in protecting consumers from identity theft crimes and other frauds. The FTC's website, www.ftc.gov/idtheft, is dedicated to providing information on identity theft. We also strongly recommend that you contact the credit bureaus as follows:

Equifax	www.equifax.com	(866) 766-0008
TransUnion	www.transunion.com	(800) 680-7289
Experian	www.experian.com	(888) 397-3742

Please note that the FTC and credit bureau websites also provide additional information that may be pertinent to your situation.

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