

Department of Justice

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WOOD SENTENCED TO OVER 8 YEARS IN PRISON

BUFFALO, N.Y. – **DAWSON WOOD**, 32, of Trenton, Ontario, Canada, who was convicted after a jury trial on May 9, 2008, on an indictment charging him with the unlawful importation of more than 100 kgs. of marijuana, the possession with intent to distribute the marijuana and fraudulent importation of marijuana, was sentenced yesterday to a term of 97 months in prison in the Bureau of Prisons, 5 years supervised release and a \$300 special assessment by Chief U.S. District Court Judge Richard J. Arcara, U.S. Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter, Western District of New York, announced today.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas S. Duszkievicz, who handled the case, stated that the defendant was arrested on March 30, 2008, after a 493-lb. load of hydroponic marijuana was found in the trailer portion of a tractor trailer he was operating at the Lewiston Bridge port of entry. WOOD was followed to a rest area on Interstate 90 near Erie, PA, before he was ultimately arrested. Thereafter, WOOD lied to the investigating agents about his relationship to another truck driver who had crossed the border at the Lewiston Bridge just prior to WOOD's entry into the U.S. A trial jury convicted the defendant of the three counts of the indictment that he was charged with after hearing testimony from the management of the Trucking Company that he worked for, indicating that GPS coordinates from his tractor indicated an impermissible stop while en route from the Toronto, Ont. area to the Lewiston Bridge. Further trucking company records reflected contact between WOOD and the other driver which contact WOOD denied to agents.

After the defendant serves his prison term, he will be turned over to Immigration authorities for deportation. The street value of the marijuana seized would have a retail value in excess of \$3.4 million.

The conviction was the culmination of an investigation on the part of agents of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Lev Kubiak, with the assistance of officers from U.S. Customs and Border Protection, under the direction of Port Director Joseph Wilson.