



United States Attorney's Office District of Connecticut Press Release

May 2, 2007

HARTFORD AUTO DEALER INDICTED ON MONEY LAUNDERING CHARGES

Kevin J. O'Connor, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced that a federal grand jury sitting in New Haven returned a three-count Indictment today charging BURIM MAHMUTI, age 25, of 866 Main Street, Newington, Connecticut, with money laundering, making false statements to the Internal Revenue Service, and failing to file a Form 8300 reporting his receipt of more than \$10,000 in cash.

The Indictment alleges that in February and March 2007, MAHMUTI, the owner of *M3 Auto Sales LLC* of 125-127 New Park Avenue, Hartford, conducted a financial transaction involving what was represented to be proceeds of drug trafficking activity, and then concealed the transaction by not following federal reporting requirements. The law requires that all trades and businesses, which includes car dealerships, file a Form 8300 with the IRS when it receives more than \$10,000 in cash in a single transaction or related transactions during a 12-month period. MAHMUTI is alleged to have received \$29,617.50 in connection with the purchase of a Dodge Durango, but failed to file a Form 8300.

The Indictment further alleges that, on April 16, 2007, MAHMUTI knowingly made false and fictitious statements to IRS agents who were investigating this matter.

If convicted, MAHMUTI faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 30 years, a fine of up to \$750,000, and forfeiture of any money or property involved in MAHMUTI's alleged money laundering offense.

U.S. Attorney O'Connor stressed that an indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is entitled to a fair trial at which it is the Government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case is being investigated by the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation Division. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David A. Ring.

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