



## United States Attorney's Office District of Connecticut Press Release

July 24, 2008

### **JORDANIAN CITIZEN SENTENCED TO 42 MONTHS FOR FRAUD, MONEY LAUNDERING, IMMIGRATION AND TAX OFFENSES**

*Former Easton resident forfeits more than \$3 million in cash, property*

Nora R. Dannehy, Acting United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced that **FARES KHRAISAT**, 39, a citizen of Jordan last residing in Easton, Connecticut, was sentenced yesterday, July 23, by United States District Judge Stefan R. Underhill in Bridgeport to 42 months of imprisonment for his participation in a commercial bribery scheme, and for violating federal tax and immigration laws. Judge Underhill also ordered KHRAISAT to forfeit more than \$3 million in cash, real estate and other items, and to pay a fine in the amount of \$30,000.

On February 11, 2008, KHRAISAT pleaded guilty to one count of mail fraud, one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering, one count of making a false statement on an immigration application, and one count of making a false statement on a tax return. According to documents filed with the Court and statements made in court, KHRAISAT owned and operated *Zam-Zam Telecard, Inc.*, a Bridgeport-based phone card company. In pleading guilty, KHRAISAT admitted that he paid more than \$400,000 in bribe payments to Jonathan Kaplan, a co-defendant, in order to receive favorable treatment from Kaplan's company. KHRAISAT also admitted that he and others provided between \$400,000 and \$500,000 in cash, which represented proceeds of illegal activity, to several other co-defendants, who then transferred the funds to a bank account in Jordan, via Hong Kong. KHRAISAT also admitted that he made false statements on an immigration application and his 2005 tax returns.

KHRAISAT has agreed to forfeit a house that he purchased for \$1.9 million, his business property that he purchased for more than \$1 million, a car that he purchased for \$200,000 in cash, \$50,000 in cash that was seized from him, as well as a Rolex watch that he purchased for \$38,000.

KHRAISAT is subject to deportation following service of his prison term.

Also yesterday, KHRAISAT's wife, **JUMANA QUTISHAT**, also known as "Jumana Quitshat" or "Jumana Khraisat," 30, was sentenced by Judge Underhill to time served and a fine of \$5000 for her participation in a sham marriage in order to obtain U.S. citizenship. She then sought to help her true husband, KHRAISAT, obtain citizenship based on her own, fraudulently obtained citizenship.

QUTISHAT has been confined to her home for approximately 17 months since her arrest. On January 31, 2008, she pleaded guilty to one count of obtaining citizenship by fraud. She also is subject to deportation to Jordan.

On November 14, 2007, Jonathan Kaplan pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud and one count of tax evasion. He awaits sentencing.

This case was investigated by the United States Secret Service; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation Division; the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Custom Enforcement; the United States Department of State, Diplomatic Security Service, and the Connecticut State Police. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michael J. Gustafson.

**CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

Tom Carson  
(203) 821-3722  
[thomas.carson@usdoj.gov](mailto:thomas.carson@usdoj.gov)

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