



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias
Northern District of Georgia

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<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan/>

CONTACT: Patrick Crosby

(404)581-6016

FAX (404)581-6160

FIRST CASE PROSECUTED UNDER NEW IDENTITY THEFT INITIATIVE

Atlanta, GA - AL AMIN PATNI, 47, of Marietta, Georgia, has been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of misuse of a social security number, aggravated identity theft, and illegal reentry. PATNI had his initial appearance and was arraigned before a United States Magistrate this morning on a superseding indictment. The superseding indictment was handed down by the grand jury last week.

United States David E. Nahmias said, "This is the first federal case to be prosecuted as a result of the Governor's Secure Identity Initiative, which combines the resources of ICE, GBI, and the Georgia Department of Drivers Services to investigate identity theft offenses. Identity theft continues to be a major problem in metro Atlanta and all over Georgia, and this is one more powerful tool to help address the problem."

According to United States Attorney Nahmias, the charges and other information presented in court: In November 2004, PATNI, a Pakistani national who illegally reentered the United States after a previous deportation, misused the social security number of someone else to open up a checking account. The indictment charges three counts: (1) misuse of a social security number, (2) aggravated identity theft, and (3) illegal reentry. The charges carry a maximum sentence of nine years in prison and a fine of up to \$750,000, with a mandatory minimum 2-year prison sentence if convicted of the aggravated identity charge.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of ICE and the GBI, with assistance from the Georgia Department of Drivers Services, as part of the Governor's Secure Identity Initiative.

Assistant United States Attorney David Leta is prosecuting the case, represented in court today by Assistant United States Attorney David McClernan.

Members of the public are reminded that the indictment contains only allegations. A defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.