



# Department of Justice

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## **FORMER DEPUTY & WIFE PLEAD GUILTY TO CHARGES RELATED TO HARBORING & EXPLOITING ILLEGAL ALIEN NANNY**

Atlanta, GA - MALIKA GARRETT, 43, and her husband, RUSSELL GARRETT, 43, a former Forsyth County, Georgia, Deputy Sheriff, both of Woodstock, Georgia, pleaded guilty today before United States District Court Judge Orinda D. Evans. MALIKA GARRETT and RUSSELL GARRETT both pleaded guilty to one count of harboring an alien for private financial gain, and MALIKA GARRETT pleaded guilty to an additional count of making a false statement to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said of the case, "Harboring illegal immigrant domestic workers and causing them to work for little or no money is a crime of greed that deprives the workers of their civil rights and often, as in this case, their freedom. Coercing such victims with threats of jail and deportation, and lying to federal agents, is also an abuse of the legal system. Regardless of their citizenship or immigration status, crime victims can bring their cases to federal officials without fear of reprisal. In fact, such victims may be eligible for special visas that allow them to remain in the United States and vindicate their civil rights."

"These defendants took advantage of their nanny's undocumented immigration status for their own financial gain," said Loretta King, Acting Assistant Attorney General of Civil Rights, at the Department of Justice in Washington D.C. "They exploited her by not paying her and preying upon her fears of deportation."

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: Beginning in February 2003 and continuing through June 2005, MALIKA and RUSSELL GARRETT, knowing that the the victim, a female Indian national, had entered the United States under false pretenses, thereafter harbored her from detection, and attempted to do so, all for the purpose of their own private financial gain. At their plea hearing, the GARRETTs admitted that they caused the victim to work as a nanny, for which the victim was initially underpaid, and then later not paid at all. The GARRETTs acknowledged that they told the victim that, if she left their home, she would be deported and jailed for an extended period of time – a condition that the defendants understood would cause great shame to the victim,

a Muslim woman. Ultimately the woman was able to escape from the GARRETT's home with the assistance of a neighbor. At that point MALIKA GARRETT threatened to, and did, both malign the victim to her family, and submit false allegations concerning the victim to Department of Homeland Security officials. MALIKA GARRETT also admitted that she lied, when questioned by special agents of the FBI and ICE, by denying that the defendants ever employed the victim as a nanny. Relating to the case, RUSSELL GARRETT was relieved by his department of his duties as a deputy on July 24, 2008.

Sentencing for Defendants MALIKA and RUSSELL GARRETT is scheduled for April 22, 2009, at 3 p.m., before Judge Evans. MALIKA GARRETT faces a maximum penalty of 15 years in federal prison on the alien harboring and false statement charges. RUSSELL GARRETT faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison on the alien harboring charge. In determining the actual sentence, the Court will consider the United States Sentencing Guidelines that, while not binding on the Court, provide an advisory and appropriate sentencing range for most offenders.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of the FBI and ICE.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Susan Coppedge and Richard S. Moultrie, Jr., and Trial Attorney Kathleen J. Monaghan of the Civil Rights Division, United States Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

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](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan).