



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates
Northern District of Georgia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

07/28/10

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CONTACT: Charysse L. Alexander

(404)581-6056

FAX (404)581-6160

ATLANTA MAN AND FORMER DRIVER'S LICENSE EXAMINER SENTENCED FOR SELLING GEORGIA DRIVER'S LICENSES

Conspirators Issued up to 40 Fraudulent Licenses in Marietta

ATLANTA, GA – JULES ARMAND CHE SIEWE ACHOU, 33, of Atlanta, and GBEMISOLA WELLINGTON-SALAKO, 36, of Marietta, were sentenced today by United States District Judge Orinda D. Evans for conspiring to issue Georgia driver's licenses to people who did not qualify for them, but who were willing to pay up to \$2,500 per license.

“The examiner endangered the community by selling licenses to the highest bidder. Official ID's such as driving licenses are required to board flights and enter secure buildings. We will aggressively pursue those who sell their public position for private gain.”

Acting Special Agent in Charge of the ICE Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Office in Atlanta Brock Nicholson said, “People like Wellington-Salako, who are willing to violate the public's trust for money, could potentially be impacting the national security of our country by giving legitimate documents to those who aren't entitled to them. These acts will not go unpunished.”

“The successful investigation and subsequent prosecution of these defendants are yet another example of what can be accomplished when local, state, and federal agencies work together to identify and arrest those involved in criminal activity and subversive actions against our state and nation,” said Director Vernon Keenan of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. “The hard work and dedication of the U. S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia, the U. S. Department of Homeland Security personnel, and GBI agents involved in this case are commendable.”

“Department of Driver Services (DDS) is committed to combating driver license fraud and identity theft as demonstrated in the proactive work of the DDS Investigative Services team,” said DDS Commissioner Gregory C. Dozier. “This case is a perfect

example of how a multi-agency task force can unite to combat illegal immigration and identity theft and support homeland security.”

SIEWE ACHOU was sentenced to 13 months in federal prison, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release. A citizen of Cameroon, SIEWE ACHOU will face deportation proceedings after he serves his sentence. WELLINGTON-SALAKO was sentenced to 15 months in federal prison, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release. SIEWE ACHOU and WELLINGTON-SALAKO each pleaded guilty earlier this year to conspiring to produce and distribute false identification documents.

According to United States Attorney Yates, the charges in the indictment, and other information presented in court: in approximately June 2007, WELLINGTON-SALAKO was a driver’s license examiner in the DDS Customer Service Center on County Services Parkway in Marietta when she agreed to work with SIEWE ACHOU to provide driver’s licenses to people who did not qualify for them, but who would pay up to \$2,500 for a license. SIEWE ACHOU would find customers and send them to WELLINGTON-SALAKO, who would issue them licenses without any tests or proof of legal residency in Georgia. SIEWE ACHOU and WELLINGTON-SALAKO later shared the money he collected from their customers. Eventually, SIEWE ACHOU recruited other men to help him find customers for the conspiracy. Between June 2007 and September 2009, the conspirators caused the DDS to issue up to 40 driver’s licenses.

Three other individuals, NAMBALADJA SOULEYMANE FOFANA, 29, of Atlanta, MOHAMED CELLOU BAMBA, 34, of Atlanta, and OMAR SHERIFF MANJANG, 45, of Lawrenceville, were also charged in the conspiracy. They each pleaded guilty to assisting SIEWE ACHOU in finding customers for the conspiracy. FOFANA and BAMBA were sentenced to prison for 8 months, with deportation proceedings to follow. MANJANG was sentenced to one year of probation.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the Georgia Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs, the Georgia Department of Driver Services, and an investigator from the DeKalb County Police Department.

Assistant United States Attorney William G. Traynor prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact Sally Q. Yates, Acting United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Linda Isaac at (404) 581-6056. 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.