



Department of Justice

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STORE OWNER SENTENCED FOR TRAFFICKING IN COUNTERFEIT CONSUMER GOODS

ATLANTA, GA - MYONG SHIN "MICHAEL" YI, 50, of Suwanee, Georgia, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Julie Carnes to serve three months in federal prison along with ordered restitution of \$6,056 on charges of trafficking in goods bearing counterfeit trademarks.

United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates said, "Sellers of counterfeit clothing unjustly enrich themselves by stealing the intellectual property of honest business people, who invest time, resources, and inventiveness to create recognizable brands. Yi violated the trademark laws of the United States, which were enacted to protect intellectual property like this."

"Trademark and intellectual property theft results in lost jobs and revenue for legitimate businesses," said Acting Special Agent in Charge of the ICE Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Office in Atlanta Brock Nicholson. "ICE will continue to investigate these kind of crimes, which harm the U.S. economy and American jobs."

YI was sentenced to three months in prison to be followed by three years of supervised release, and ordered to pay restitution of \$6,056. YI was convicted of these charges on May 25, 2010 upon his plea of guilty to a Criminal Information.

According to United States Attorney Yates, the charges and other information presented in court: MICHAEL YI operated a clothing business known as DMX Apparel at 3223 Oakcliff Industrial Street, Doraville, Georgia. From this storefront, YI sold legitimate goods, but he maintained a warehouse nearby where he stored and sold in large quantities knockoff jeans, shirts and shoes bearing trademarked designer and sports logos. The rightsholders whose trademarks YI infringed included Nike, BAPE, LRG, Lacoste, the National Football League, Collegiate Licensing Co., Evisu and Red Monkey, among others.

ICE searched the store and warehouse and found over 5,000 counterfeit items. YI admitted that he bought his merchandise from a larger wholesaler in Atlanta and sold the knockoff goods to other store operators around the Southeast. YI's sentence was reduced to reflect his cooperation against others involved in trafficking counterfeit goods. In a related case, five defendants were charged and approximately \$30 million in counterfeit goods were seized. The \$30 million seizure is one of the largest criminal trademark prosecutions ever brought in this District.

This case was investigated by Special Agent Michael Ashley of ICE Homeland Security Investigations.

Assistant United States Attorney Brian Pearce prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact Sally Q. Yates, United States Attorney, or John Horn, First 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.justice.gov/usao/gan.