



Department of Justice

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RODENT-INFESTED FOOD STORAGE WAREHOUSE RAIDED BY FEDS

ATLANTA, GA - United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates announced that the United States Marshals today seized rice and other packaged food products from a rodent-infested warehouse owned by "Sun Hong Kai Holding, Inc." a/k/a "United Food Service" located in East Point, Georgia. The seizure was based upon a civil complaint that the United States Attorney's Office filed under seal late last week for violations of the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. The complaint was unsealed today upon the U.S. Marshals' seizure of the food products with an approximate value of \$720,000.

United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates said of the complaint and investigation, "The insanitary conditions alleged to exist in this warehouse where food is stored are simply unacceptable. This office has moved quickly to prevent the FDA-regulated products stored in this rodent-infested warehouse from being sold to unsuspecting consumers."

The complaint alleges that a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) inspection of United Food Service, conducted from September 22 through October 1, 2010, documented an active and widespread rodent infestation, including live and dead rodents within the warehouse where food products are stored. FDA investigators documented, photographed, and/or videotaped 28 live rodents (which included a nest of nine live neonatal rodents), one dead rodent, apparent rodent excreta pellets too numerous to count, 26 apparent rodent gnaw holes in multiple food packages, rodent urine stains on food packaging, and four rodent nesting sites.

FDA laboratory analyses of samples collected during the inspection confirmed the investigators' observations. FDA investigators also observed structural defects, such as gaps under exterior doors, broken windows and a hole in an exterior wall serving as entryways for pests into the building; exterior rodent burrow holes and interior debris serving as active rodent areas. In addition, the investigators documented the presence of numerous live birds flying in the facility and flying insects in the vicinity of the food. The complaint alleges that all articles of food in permeable containers located anywhere at United Food Service have been held under insanitary conditions whereby they may have become contaminated with filth.

Members of the public are reminded that the complaint contains only allegations. It will be the government's burden to prove the allegations at trial.

Assistant United States Attorneys Dahil Goss and Christopher Huber are representing the United States

Attorney's Office in this case.

For further information please contact Sally Q. Yates, 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.justice.gov/usao/gan.