



United States Attorney District of New Jersey

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HUDSON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY MAN SENTENCED TO 31 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR MAKING AND SELLING COMPUTERIZED TEMPLATES FOR PRODUCING FAKE IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Templates Included Driver's Licenses for Various States and Federal Law Enforcement Credentials

TRENTON, N.J. – a Hudson County, New Jersey man was sentenced today to 31 months in prison on a federal fraud charge arising from his creation of computerized templates to be used in the production of false identification documents, including federal law enforcement credentials, and selling them over the Internet, United States Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

Michael J. Sternquist, a/k/a "John Torchwood," 26, of Hoboken, N.J., had previously pleaded guilty to a count of fraud in connection with identification documents before United States District Judge Freda L. Wolfson. Judge Wolfson also imposed the sentence today in Trenton federal court.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court:

Sternquist admitted that between September 2009 and February 12, 2010, he created computerized templates for false identification documents, including various state driver's licenses and federal law enforcement credentials, and sold them over the Internet. Sternquist also admitted that the templates he created included authentication features that issuing entities use to determine whether identification documents are counterfeit. He also provided purchasers with instructions on how to print the identification documents, including the authentication features – knowing that the people who bought the templates would use them to create false documents.

Sternquist also previously pleaded guilty to violating the terms of his supervised release following his release from custody on a prior, July 2007 identification document fraud conviction in the Southern District of Ohio.

Judge Wolfson took the prior conviction and related violation into consideration in imposing today's sentence. In addition to the prison term, Judge Wolfson sentenced Sternquist to three years of supervised release. The defendant has been remanded pending sentencing.

U.S. Attorney Fishman credited the United States Secret Service, Trenton Resident Agency, under the direction of Acting Special Agent in Charge James Mottola; the Social Security Administration's Office of Inspector General, under the direction of Special Agent in

Charge Edward J. Ryan, the United States Postal Inspection Service in Newark, under the direction of Postal Inspector in Charge David Collins; the Fort Monmouth Police Department, under the direction of Chief of Police Adam S. Weinstein; and the Hoboken Police Department, under the direction of Chief of Police Anthony P. Falco Sr., with the investigation leading to today's guilty plea.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric M. Schweiker of the United States Attorney's Office Criminal Division in Trenton.

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Defense counsel: Andrea Bergman, Esq., Assistant Federal Public Defender, Trenton, N.J.