



Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY RICHARD S. HARTUNIAN announced that MARIE HELENE CAROLE BOWEN, age 41, of New York, New York, was sentenced today by Senior United States District Judge Thomas J. McAvoy, to 24 months in federal prison, to be followed by supervised release for two years, upon her convictions for passport fraud and aggravated identity theft.

Today's sentencing follows the August 26, 2010 guilty plea of MARIE HELENE CAROLE BOWEN to the charges of passport fraud and aggravated identity theft. BOWEN was encountered by United States Customs and Border Protection officers at the Champlain, New York Port of Entry on June 3, 2010 as she sought admission into the United States as a passenger in an automobile. BOWEN, a citizen of Cameroon, presented a United States passport that belonged to another person and claimed to be that person in an attempt to enter the United States and return to her residence in New York City. During an immigration inspection conducted at the Port of Entry, a CBP officer arrested BOWEN after he discovered that BOWEN was not, in fact, a United States citizen and that the passport she presented as hers had actually been issued to a different person. BOWEN, an alien from Cameroon, had used the passport and other identifying information of a United States citizen to travel to and from the United States. At the time of her arrest, BOWEN also possessed a Cameroon passport.

This matter was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Champlain, New York, and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Rouses Point, New York.

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