



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 12, 2010**

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**MANHATTAN U.S. ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES EXTRADITION
OF ISRAELI NATIONAL FROM FRANCE FOR SALE
OF BARYE BRONZES AND OTHER STOLEN ART**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and JAMES T. HAYES, JR., the Special Agent-in-Charge of the Department of Homeland Security's United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"), today announced the extradition from France of SOLLY SINAI, a/k/a "Soley Sinay," to face charges of selling and attempting to sell several items of stolen art and antiques in New York. SINAI arrived in the Southern District of New York late Friday and is expected to be presented in Manhattan federal court today.

According to the six-count Indictment and other court documents filed in Manhattan federal court:

SINAI possessed and sold, or attempted to sell, art and antiques previously stolen during three burglaries committed in Paris. In the spring of 1997, approximately 200 valuable, Japanese antique miniature sculptures were stolen from a Paris shop. A second burglary took place in May 1998 when more than 50 items of art and antiques -- including four pairs of Napoleonic-era pistols valued at approximately \$500,000, as well as a decorative antique silver bowl -- were stolen from a Paris residence. Approximately one month later, a pair of antique candelabra and approximately 104 bronze sculptures, the majority of which were valuable "first casts" by the artist ANTOINE LOUIS BARYE ("Barye Bronzes"), were stolen from another Paris antique shop.

In June 2000, SINAI knowingly sold and attempted to sell in New York City and elsewhere various items stolen in the

Paris burglaries described above, including six of the antique pistols, the silver bowl, the candelabra, and several of the Barye Bronzes.

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The Indictment charges SINAI with two counts of interstate transportation of stolen property and four counts of receipt and sale of stolen property. SINAI was arrested on January 30, 2008, in Paris by French authorities on a provisional arrest warrant issued in connection with the charges filed in the United States.

The case is assigned to United States District Judge VICTOR MARRERO. If convicted, SINAI faces on each count a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a fine of the greatest of \$250,000, or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from the offense.

The arrest and extradition of SINAI were the result of the joint efforts of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, ICE, the U.S. Department of State, and the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of International Affairs.

The case is being prosecuted by the Complex Frauds Unit. Assistant United States Attorney SEETHA RAMACHANDRAN is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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