



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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IMMIGRATION LAWYER AND TWO OTHERS CHARGED
IN MANHATTAN FEDERAL COURT WITH PARTICIPATING
IN INTERNATIONAL SMUGGLING RING

*Defendants Allegedly Helped Smuggle Over 450 Aliens Into The
United States*

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 New York Office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations ("ICE HSI"), today announced charges against HAK TUNG LAM, an immigration attorney who practiced in lower Manhattan, and two others, WEN WO LAM and YING YANG, for their participation in an international alien smuggling ring. The defendants allegedly served as legal advisors to alien smugglers by recommending ports of entry, advising on methods of avoiding detection, filing false immigration documents, and obtaining the release of detained aliens through fraud. All three defendants were arrested this morning.

Manhattan U.S. Attorney PREET BHARARA said: "For Hak Tung Lam, zealous representation of his clients -- a group of international alien smugglers -- allegedly meant assisting them in breaking the law. He and his co-defendants were allegedly responsible for facilitating a smuggling operation that brought hundreds of illegal aliens into this country and for preserving their phony legal status once they arrived. The profits were big, but the price they will now pay, if convicted, is much higher."

ICE HSI Special Agent-in-Charge JAMES T. HAYES, JR. said: "As an officer of the court, Hak Tung Lam swore to uphold the laws and constitution of the United States. Instead, he used

his training and education to allegedly perpetrate one of the most wide-ranging criminal fraud schemes that this office has ever investigated solely for his personal financial gain. ICE HSI will continue to pursue those individuals who seek to take advantage of this country's legal immigration system for their own benefit and at the expense of others."

According to the Complaint and other documents filed in Manhattan federal court:

From October 2006 to February 2009, HAK TUNG LAM allegedly worked with others to smuggle approximately 468 Chinese nationals into the United States. During that time, LAM provided legal and logistical advice to alien smugglers and made false immigration filings on behalf of the smuggled aliens. He earned close to \$1 million for his participation in this smuggling ring. Earlier this summer, LAM was caught in an HSI undercover operation, providing advice to and making false filings for an individual working for HSI whom LAM believed was in the business of alien smuggling. WEN WO LAM and YING YANG allegedly assisted LAM by, among other things, providing advice, collecting money, and coaching the aliens on what lies to include in their immigration filings.

* * *

HAK TUNG LAM, 44, of Flushing, New York, WEN WO LAM, 43, of Staten Island, New York, and YING YANG, 30, of Flushing, New York, are each charged with one count of conspiracy to commit alien smuggling. HAK TUNG LAM is also charged with one count of

On the conspiracy count, each defendant faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. On the substantive count, HAK TUNG LAM faces a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison.

Mr. BHARARA praised the investigative work of ICE HSI in this case. He added that the investigation is continuing.

This case is being handled by the Office's Organized Crime Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorneys JUSTIN ANDERSON, JASON A. MASIMORE, and SARAH KRISOFF are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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