



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**MANHATTAN U.S. ATTORNEY CHARGES NYPD OFFICER
WITH NARCOTICS CONSPIRACY**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and PETER T.EDGE, the Special Agent-in-Charge of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Homeland Security Investigations in New Jersey ("ICE HSI"), announced today the filing of an Indictment charging KIFAH OTHMAN, an officer with the New York Police Department ("NYPD"), with participating in a conspiracy to distribute ketamine. OTHMAN was previously charged by Complaint on November 16, 2010.

According to the Indictment, the Complaint previously filed in Manhattan federal court, and statements made at OTHMAN's initial appearance in the case:

In October 2010, OTHMAN approached a cooperating witness ("CW-1") about conducting a ketamine transaction. OTHMAN told the CW that OTHMAN and his partner, who operated in New York City's Chinatown, were looking to obtain approximately \$40,000 of ketamine on a weekly basis.

During subsequent meetings, OTHMAN, CW-1, and an undercover officer ("UC"), posing as CW-1's supplier, met with OTHMAN and negotiated a price for a large shipment of ketamine. During meetings, OTHMAN described a past transaction where a shipping container filled with ketamine was delivered to his partner.

OTHMAN asked CW-1 and the undercover officer for a sample of the ketamine the UC intended to supply to OTHMAN. On November 15, 2010, he met with CW-1 and the UC, and was provided with a bag that contained 51 ampules of what appeared to be ketamine, but that in fact was water. OTHMAN placed the bag in his car, drove away from the meeting, and was arrested a short distance away.

OTHMAN is charged with one count of conspiring to distribute or possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance. If convicted, OTHMAN faces a maximum sentence of ten years in prison, and a fine of the greater of \$500,000, or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from the crime.

OTHMAN was arraigned on the charges in the Indictment in Magistrate Court today.

This investigation was a joint operation between ICE HSI and the NYPD Internal Affairs Bureau. Mr. BHARARA praised the efforts of the investigating agents from ICE HSI and NYPD.

Assistant U.S. Attorney NICHOLAS L. McQUAID 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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