



***United States Attorney
Southern District of New York***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**INFORMATION FROM CANADA LEADS TO ARREST
FOR IMMIGRATION FRAUD**

LEV L. DASSIN, the Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and PETER J. SMITH, Special Agent-in-Charge of the New York Office of the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"), announced that ANDY AKROMAH, a/k/a "Anderson Owusu," was arrested today by ICE Agents at his residence in Boston, Massachusetts and charged with making false statements on U.S. immigration documents. According to the criminal Complaint filed in Manhattan federal court:

In February 2005, AKROMAH submitted a form I-485 application to adjust status and obtain lawful permanent residency in the United States. In that questionnaire, AKROMAH responded in the negative to questions asking whether he had been arrested or charged for breaking the law, and whether he had ever participated in the killing of any person because of race, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, or political opinion. However, investigation established that AKROMAH had previously submitted an application for refugee status in Canada under the name "Anderson Owusu" and that in an interview with Canadian immigration authorities he had stated that he had been employed by the Ghana Bureau of National Investigation and had been involved in arrests of individuals politically opposed to the government who in some cases had been arrested and killed extrajudicially. Investigation also disclosed that in 1998 AKROMAH, under the name Anderson Owusu, had been arrested and charged in Canada with criminal offenses, and that the charges

were still pending. These circumstances came to light as a result of an ICE law enforcement initiative under which it established a Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Unit that, among other things, seeks to obtain and analyze fingerprints for individuals who have been deported from Canada based on suspected involvement in past human rights violations.

AKROMAH is charged with knowingly making a false statement in connection with an application for immigration benefits. If convicted, AKROMAH faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. AKROMAH, 38, currently resides in Boston, MA, where he was presented before a United States Magistrate Judge today and detained.

Mr. DASSIN praised the investigative work of the New York Office of the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in this case. He also thanked the Boston ICE Office, Canada Border Services Agency, ICE Attache office in Ottawa, the Orangeville, Ontario Police Service, and the United States Department of State for providing valuable assistance.

The investigation is being handled by the Major Crimes Unit of the United States Attorney's Office. Assistant United States Attorney ROSEMARY NIDIRY is in charge of the prosecution.

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

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