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**MANHATTAN MAN SENTENCED TO ALMOST 20 YEARS IN PRISON FOR
BRIBERY, IDENTITY FRAUD, AND TRANSPORTING ALIENS IN
SCHEME INVOLVING OVER 900 DRIVER'S LICENSES**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that MUSTAFA OZSUSAMLAR, a/k/a "Mustafa Ozcan," a/k/a "Missta Oscane," was sentenced yesterday to 235 months in prison for his role in conspiracies to bribe a public official, transport illegal aliens, and fraudulently obtain identification documents. The defendant was convicted following a two-week jury trial in July 2004 before United States District Chief Judge KIMBA M. WOOD on all charges contained in the Indictment. As established by the evidence at trial:

OZSUSAMLAR and his co-conspirator, RAFET OZOGLU, a/k/a "Mehmet Ak," transported aliens by the vanload from the New York area to Washington, D.C., in order to fraudulently obtain Washington, D.C., ("D.C.") driver's licenses. The scheme involved bribing co-conspirator GWENDOLYNN DEAN -- a window clerk with the D.C. Department of Motor Vehicles ("D.C. DMV") -- to process the driver's license applications.

Throughout the two-and-a-half year course of the conspiracy, OZSUSAMLAR fraudulently obtained more than 900 D.C. driver's licenses by bribing DEAN. Many of those obtaining the driver's licenses were illegal aliens, and approximately 75 of the individuals later exchanged their fraudulently obtained D.C. driver's licenses for New York driver's licenses.

From January 2000 through June 2002, OZSUSAMLAR and OZOGLU solicited co-conspirators who wished to fraudulently obtain driver's licenses (the "Clients") and transported those Clients from the New York area to D.C., usually driving the Clients in passenger vans. Most of the Clients were of Middle Eastern, South Asian or Russian descent, and many were illegal aliens.

Once in D.C., OZSUSAMLAR filled out D.C. DMV driver's license applications for the Clients using fictitious D.C.

addresses. Then, he accompanied the Clients to the specific window of the D.C. DMV office at which DEAN was working, where she processed the Clients' applications despite the absence of proof of name and date of birth, Social Security number, and residence. In return, DEAN received cash payments from OZSUSAMLAR and his co-conspirators. After each Client obtained a valid D.C. driver's license, OZSUSAMLAR and his co-conspirators drove the Clients back to the New York area.

For providing this service, the Clients each paid OZSUSAMLAR approximately \$1,500 to \$2,000. OZSUSAMLAR made at least seventy trips to DC from the New York area as part of his operation.

OZOGLU, 46, was a resident of Brooklyn, New York, until his arrest in June 2002 on the same charges in this case. OZOGLU pleaded guilty to all six charges contained in the Indictment on January 8, 2004. On May 26, 2005, Chief Judge WOOD sentenced OZOGLU to 79 months in prison for his role in the conspiracy.

DEAN, 53, of Washington, D.C., pleaded guilty to two counts of identification document fraud on March 10, 2003, and on October 31, 2003, was sentenced by Chief Judge KIMBA M. WOOD to 57 months in prison for her role in the conspiracy.

OZSUSAMLAR, 64, was a resident of Manhattan until his arrest in December 2001 on federal charges in a separate case; in April 2006, OZSUSAMLAR was found guilty by a jury of conspiracy to commit murder-for-hire, murder-for-hire, and conspiracy to commit extortion. As established by the evidence at trial, OZSUSAMLAR was convicted, along with his son, OSMAN OZSUSAMLAR, of conspiring to hire a hitman to kill and extort an individual who owed OZSUSAMLAR approximately \$283,000 in exchange for 10 percent of the money collected. The plot, in which OZSUSAMLAR also suggested kidnapping the victim's children and which OZSUSAMLAR arranged while he was in a Manhattan federal detention facility, was foiled by an undercover FBI operation. OZSUSAMLAR is scheduled to be sentenced in that case on March 1, 2007 at 10 a.m. by Judge LEISURE.

Mr. GARCIA praised the extraordinary efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in this case, as well as of the D.C. Office of the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the D.C. Office of the Joint Terrorism Task Force.

Assistant United States Attorneys ALEXANDER H. SOUTHWELL and DAVID M. SIEGAL are in charge of the prosecution.

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