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BANK TELLER WHO HELPED STAGE PHONY BANK ROBBERY
SENTENCED TO 30 MONTHS

LEV L. DASSIN, the Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that CHRISTINA DASRATH was sentenced today by United States District Judge LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN to 30 months in prison for bank fraud conspiracy; bank larceny; and making false statements to investigators. DASRATH had previously entered a plea of guilty to these charges on September 5, 2008.

According to the Indictment and Complaints previously filed in Manhattan federal court and statements made at DASRATH's plea and sentencing:

DASRATH, at the time a teller in a bank located at 57 Avenue A, New York, New York, conspired with CHRISTIAN TORRES (who at the time was a New York City Police Officer) to steal money from the bank by staging a phony bank robbery. DASRATH gave TORRES information about the bank's security procedures and how tellers were trained to respond in the event of a bank robbery. Then, on June 8, 2007, TORRES entered the bank and handed DASRATH a note directing her to "empty both drawers" and threatening to "start shooting." DASRATH thereupon handed TORRES \$16,305 from her teller drawer, a portion of which TORRES later shared with DASRATH. Following another robbery of the bank on November 16, 2007, DASRATH also lied to law enforcement officials about the identity of the man who had committed the robbery.

Trial against TORRES is pending; as to him, the charges in the Indictment are merely allegations and he is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Mr. DASSIN praised the outstanding investigative work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the New York City Police Department.

This case is being handled by the Office's Public Corruption Unit. Assistant United States Attorney DANIEL STEIN is in charge of the prosecution.

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