



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**CANADIAN MAN SENTENCED TO 46 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON
AND \$300,000 IN FORFEITURE IN FAKE INVOICE MAIL SCAM
TARGETING 25,000 BUSINESSES**

U.S. Attorney's Office Provides Victim Assistance Information

LEV L. DASSIN, the Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that EMANUEL MEDEIROS was sentenced earlier today to 46 months in federal prison on charges arising from a mass-mail, fake invoice scam that targeted approximately 25,000 businesses throughout the United States and abroad. MEDEIROS was sentenced by United States District Judge COLLEEN McMAHON, who also ordered MEDEIROS to pay \$300,000 in forfeiture. According to the documents filed in Court and statements made during Court proceedings:

MEDEIROS, who sometimes used the name "Joseph Garcia," carried out his phoney-invoice scheme under the names Boom Global Media Inc. and Bradstreet International. These companies claimed to be internet-based business listing services offering a "business to business guide" that could provide "cost-effective Internet Advertising" for customers to "showcase [their] goods and/or services" and "recruit talented and qualified people for [their] organization." But instead of providing the service as claimed, MEDEIROS simply sent out bills to thousands of companies. The bills were styled as "RENEWAL" notices, even though the recipients had not previously purchased any services from MEDEIROS's companies. These bills, most of which charged \$297.83, also threatened to charge a penalty of 2% per month for supposedly "overdue accounts," or, on occasion, to report the recipient to a collection agency on failure to pay. While many companies who received these "RENEWAL" notices simply ignored them, approximately 25,000 companies were in fact duped into paying.

MEDEIROS, 48, resided in Toronto, Canada, before he was arrested on June 18, 2008, but has been in custody in New

York since his arrest. His sentencing follows his guilty plea on September 25, 2008, to one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud.

Mr. DASSIN thanked the United States Postal Inspection Service for its assistance in this investigation.

This prosecution is being handled by the Major Crimes Unit of the United States Attorney's Office. Assistant United States Attorneys JULIAN J. MOORE and MARCUS A. ASNER are in charge of the prosecution.

If you believe you or your company was a victim of this crime, or that you may be entitled to restitution for paying one of MEDEIROS's phoney invoices, and you wish to provide information to law enforcement and/or receive notice of future developments in the case or additional information, please contact Wendy Olsen-Clancy, the Victim Witness Coordinator at the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, at (866) 874-8900 or Wendy.Olsen@usdoj.gov. For additional information, go to: <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nys/victimwitness.html> on the Internet.

Consumers should also be aware that the Federal Trade Commission also enforces the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, which prohibits unfair debt collection practices. The FTC works for the consumer to prevent fraudulent, deceptive, and unfair business practices in the marketplace and to provide information to help consumers spot, stop, and avoid them. To file a complaint or to get free information on consumer issues, visit ftc.gov or call toll-free, 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357); TTY: 1-866-653-4261. To understand your rights when someone calls you about an alleged debt, see <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/credit/cre18.shtm>.

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