



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 7, 2006

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**STATEMENT OF UNITED STATES ATTORNEY REGARDING ARRESTS
OF DEFENDANTS ON CHARGES OF USING SHAM MARRIAGES TO
OBTAIN IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS**

United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, MICHAEL J. GARCIA, stated: "Unlike those possessing counterfeit documents, these defendants used fraudulent methods to obtain legitimate green cards. It's like getting an authentic college diploma without stepping foot inside the classroom. But while a diploma is a gateway to opportunity, these green cards are a gateway to a serious security risk. The bearers gained the ability to board planes and open bank accounts without any risk that authorities could detect the underlying fraud."