



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

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**U.S. CHARGES FIVE WITH EXTORTION
OF PRIVATE VAN DRIVERS**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and MARK J. MERSHON, Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI New York Field Office, announced the filing of extortion conspiracy charges against five individuals: CHEN HUI, HENG DE OH-YANG, a/k/a "Ou Yang," ZU QUN LI, a/k/a "Ah Quan," GUO CHAO ZHANG, a/k/a "The Controller," and YONG WANG, a/k/a "Jackie." The complaint charges that, from in or about July 2004, up to and including on or about May 1, 2006, HUI, OH-YANG, LI, ZHANG and WANG conspired to extort money from the drivers of private vans operating on a route between Manhattan and Brooklyn.

According to the complaint, approximately 50 private vans transported passengers between the corner of East Broadway and Market Street, in Manhattan, and the corner of 58th Street and 8th Avenue, in Brooklyn. HUI, OH-YANG, LI, ZHANG and WANG forced the drivers of these vans to pay them a "monthly fee" of approximately \$200 to \$400. If a driver did not pay the fee, ZHANG would prevent that driver from picking up and discharging passengers and from operating on the route. WANG beat up at least one van driver who had refused to pay the fee and threatened another with violence. The drivers were also summoned to attend dinner meetings, for which they were required to pay regardless of their attendance. During these meetings, HUI, OH-YANG and others discussed increases in the "monthly fees" and how the route was to be operated.

HUI, OH-YANG, LI, ZHANG and WANG were arrested late yesterday in Brooklyn. All are expected to be presented before United States Magistrate Judge KEVIN NATHANIEL FOX today on the charges contained in the complaint.

The investigation of these charges was conducted by a joint Federal Bureau of Investigation and New York City Police Department task force, with the assistance of the 5th Precinct of the New York City Police Department.

Mr. GARCIA praised the efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the New York City Police Department in conducting the investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney JONATHAN B. NEW is in charge of the prosecution.

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