



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 15, 2008**

**CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**  
**YUSILL SCRIBNER,**  
**REBEKAH CARMICHAEL**  
**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE**  
**(212) 637-2600**

**UNITED NATIONS EMPLOYEE SENTENCED TO ONE YEAR**  
**IN PRISON IN WIDE-RANGING IMMIGRATION FRAUD**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that VYACHESLAV MANOKHIN was sentenced to serve one year in prison for participating in an immigration fraud scheme to fraudulently procure large numbers of United States entry visas for non-U.S. citizens while a United Nations employee. The sentence was imposed by United States District Judge HAROLD BAER, JR. in Manhattan federal court.

During the sentencing proceeding, Judge BAER said that MANOKHIN was "part of a web of deception that couldn't have been wrought without your help." He also ordered MANOKHIN to serve two years of supervised release and to pay a fine of \$5000. MANOKHIN had been in custody since his arrest on August 6, 2007. According to the Complaint and Indictment filed in the case, and statements made during the guilty plea proceeding:

MANOKHIN, while working out of U.N. headquarters in Manhattan, perpetrated a scheme involving fraudulent documents, some of which were prepared on United Nations letterhead, that requested U.S. Entry Visas so that aliens could attend conferences in the United States that either did not exist or that the Aliens did not attend. Co-conspirator VLADIMIR DEREVIANKO prepared the fraudulent documents, and MANOKHIN used his position at the U.N. to make it appear as though the U.N. supported the visa applications.

For example, one document -- submitted in support of an entry visa for an individual named KAMILJAN TURSUNOV -- was prepared on U.N. Development Programme ("UNDP") letterhead; purported to be signed by a non-existent UNDP official named "Leonardo Brackett"; and included as a contact MANOKHIN's telephone number at U.N. headquarters. When asked by a caller about the TURSUNOV visa application, MANOKHIN stated that he was an assistant to "Leonardo Brackett," and confirmed, falsely, that TURSUNOV had been invited to come to the United States for a U.N.

conference. Based in part on these assurances, TURSUNOV obtained an entry visa and entered the United States. When TURSUNOV was later arrested in the U.S., he admitted to federal agents that he paid \$15,000 to a person in Uzbekistan for his U.S. entry visa; that his visa application suggested that he was coming to the United States to attend a conference; and that he did not attend the conference and had no intention of doing so. Rather, TURSUNOV admitted, he entered the United States, moved to Florida, and had been living there for over two years.

TURSUNOV pleaded guilty in connection with this matter on January 25, 2008, and was sentenced on May 13, 2008, by Judge BAER to time-served. TURSUNOV had been in federal custody since July 2008.

On March 10, 2008, MANOKHIN and DEREVIANKO pleaded guilty to one count of conspiring to obtain entry visas by means of false statements. On May 8, 2008, Judge BAER sentenced DEREVIANKO to time-served. DEREVIANKO had been in custody since his arrest on August 6, 2007.

Mr. GARCIA praised the work of the United States Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the United States Department of Labor, Office of the Inspector General. Mr. GARCIA also thanked the United States Mission to the United Nations; the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs; and the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight, for their assistance on this matter.

Assistant United States Attorneys MICHAEL FARBIARZ and IRIS LAN are in charge of the prosecution.