



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

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

**SOMALIAN PIRATE INDICTED FOR HIJACKING THE MAERSK
ALABAMA AND HOLDING THE SHIP'S CAPTAIN HOSTAGE**

LEV L. DASSIN, the Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today the filing of a ten-count indictment against ABDUWALI ABDUKHADIR MUSE, stemming from the April 8, 2009, hijacking of the Maersk Alabama container ship in the Indian Ocean, and the subsequent taking of the captain of the ship as a hostage. MUSE was taken into custody by the United States Navy on April 12, 2009, while at sea in the Indian Ocean. On April 20, 2009, MUSE was transferred from the custody of the United States Navy to the FBI for transport to the Southern District of New York. On April 21, 2009, following a hearing held before United States Magistrate Judge ANDREW J. PECK at the time of MUSE's presentment on the Complaint in this matter, Magistrate Judge PECK found that MUSE was over 18 years old and could be prosecuted as an adult.

The Indictment filed today in Manhattan federal court charges MUSE with the following offenses, carrying the following potential penalties:

Count	Charge	Maximum Prison Term
1	Piracy under the law of nations	Life*
2	Seizing a ship by force	20 years
3	Conspiracy to seize a ship by force	20 years
4	Possession of a machinegun during and in relation to seizing a ship by force	Life*
5	Hostage taking	Life
6	Conspiracy to commit hostage taking	Life

7	Possession of a machinegun during and in relation to hostage taking	Life*
8	Kidnapping	Life
9	Conspiracy to commit kidnapping	Life
10	Possession of a machinegun during and in relation to kidnapping	Life*

*Count One carries a mandatory sentence of life in prison. Counts Four, Seven, and Ten also carry mandatory minimum penalties of 30 years in prison if convicted on a single one of those Counts, or, if convicted of two or more of those Counts, a mandatory sentence of life in prison.

The case has been assigned to United States District Judge LORETTA A. PRESKA. MUSE is scheduled to be arraigned on the charges in the Indictment on May 21, 2009, at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. DASSIN praised the New York Joint Terrorism Task Force -- which principally consists of agents of the FBI and detectives of the New York City Police Department -- and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service for their extraordinary efforts in the investigation of this case. Mr. DASSIN also thanked the Counterterrorism Section of the Department of Justice, the Department of State, specifically the United States Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, the FBI's Legal Attaché Office in Nairobi, and the Department of Defense. Mr. DASSIN also expressed his gratitude to the Government of Kenya and Maersk Line, Limited, for their cooperation and assistance.

Assistant United States Attorneys MICHAEL FARBIARZ and BRENDAN R. McGUIRE are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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