

Department of Justice

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CANADIAN MAN RETURNED TO UNITED STATES FROM HUNGARY TO FACE DRUG CHARGES

BUFFALO, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Vedran Zavisic, 31, of Canada, has been returned to the United States from Hungary to face drug charges. The defendant was arrested on October 9, 2006 while attempting to enter the United States from Canada at the Lewiston Bridge.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney George C. Burgasser, who is handling the case, Zavisic attempted to enter the U.S. on October 9, 2006. During a secondary inspection, Customs and Border Protection Officers discovered a black garbage bag in the spare tire well. Inside the bag were numerous clear plastic bags which contained Ecstasy pills. Further inspection revealed additional bags of pills inside the sidewalls and spare tire. There were a total of 48 kilograms of ecstasy containing methamphetamine and 112 kilograms of ecstasy for a total of 102,000 pills.

The defendant was indicted on charges of importation of controlled substances into the United States, intent to distribute controlled substances, and conspiracy to distribute controlled substances. The charges carry a minimum penalty of 10 years in prison, a maximum of life, a \$10,000,000 or both.

Zavisic left Canada and moved to Serbia. He was arrested in Hungary earlier this year and extradited to the United States on September 20, 2012. The defendant has been arraigned and is being detained following a detention hearing this morning before U.S. Magistrate Judge H. Kenneth Schroeder. Zavisic is due back in court on January 30, 2013.

The developments are the result of an investigation on the part of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge James C. Spero.

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