

U.S. Department of Justice



United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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**IDENTITY THIEF SENTENCED TO MORE THAN 10 YEARS**

PHILADELPHIA - Ibrahim Fofana, 25, of Ohio, was sentenced today to 124 months in prison for conspiracy to commit credit card fraud, credit card fraud, and identity theft, announced United States Attorney Zane David Memeger. Fofana traveled from Ohio to Pennsylvania to engage in these crimes, and was arrested after a victim of the credit card scheme notified authorities that her credit card account number had been used to rent rooms at a hotel in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania. At the time of Fofana's arrest at the Upper Darby hotel, police found identification in another name that Fofana was using to rent the hotel rooms, a device used to re-encode account numbers onto gift and credit cards, computers and thumbdrives which contained over 500 account numbers belonging to people living throughout the United States and overseas, as well as numerous debit and gift cards that had been re-encoded with account numbers belonging to other people, and receipts from recent purchases made in Ohio using account numbers belonging to some of the scheme's victims.

Fofana pleaded guilty September 13, 2010 to one count of conspiracy to commit access device fraud, one count of production, use or trafficking in one or more counterfeit access devices, six counts of aggravated identity theft, one count of possession of 15 or more unauthorized or counterfeit access devices, and one count of possession of device-making equipment.

In addition to the prison term, U.S. District Court Judge Petrese B. Tucker ordered Fofana to pay restitution in the amount of \$10,178.49 (payable by the defendant and his four co-defendants). Fofana's co-defendants, Diamond Dabo, Emmanuel Wiafe, Varflay Kanneh and Noah Dobson, also pleaded guilty. In November, Dabo was sentenced to 48 months.

The case was investigated by the United States Secret Service and the Upper Darby Police Department. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Bea L. Witzleben.

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