



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

615 Chestnut Street
Suite 1250
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-4476
(215) 861-8200

For immediate release

May 10, 2010

WOMAN CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL DISTRIBUTION OF DIET PILLS

PHILADELPHIA – An 18-count indictment¹ was unsealed today in a case involving the illegal importation and distribution of more than four million diet pills, announced United States Attorney Zane D. Memeger. Mimi Trieu surrendered to federal authorities today. She is charged with 11 counts of mail fraud, one count of conspiracy to smuggle illegal merchandise, and six counts of possession with intent to distribute Sibutramine, a schedule IV controlled substance.

Trieu was the owner of Hong Kong Beauty International, located at 5520 Whitaker Ave, Phila., which was in the business of importing and distributing a variety of beauty products, including diet pills. According to the indictment, Trieu imported and sold the drugs between October 2008 and March 2010, even after learning that the capsules contained Sibutramine and other dangerous substances, and that the pills did not have approval from the Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”). The FDA had issued warnings to consumers that, in addition to the Sibutramine, the drugs contained an anti-seizure medication and a chemical solvent that is considered a possible carcinogen. According to the FDA, these drugs could cause serious side effects in some people, including nausea, vomiting, elevated blood pressure, heart attacks, and strokes.

The indictment alleges that Trieu smuggled the diet pills from China through the mail, using packages with customs declarations that falsely described the capsules as “gifts,” worth minimal amounts. According to the indictment, Trieu falsely advertised the illegal diet capsules as containing natural ingredients while failing to disclose to customers that the drugs contained Sibutramine and other dangerous ingredients. The indictment also alleges that she told some customers that the drugs were manufactured in Japan, and told one customer that the FDA warning was not true. The indictment also includes a forfeiture count, which seeks the forfeiture of approximately \$500,000 in proceeds from the illegal sale of the drugs.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANT

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE
Mimi Trieu	Philadelphia, PA	41

If convicted, Trieu faces a maximum sentence of 228 years in prison, \$4,500,000 fine and three years supervised release.

¹An Indictment is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

May 10, 2010
Page 2

The case was investigated by the Food and Drug Administration, Office of Criminal Investigations, the Postal Inspection Service, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The case has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorneys Judy Goldstein Smith and Sarah Grieb.

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
EASTERN DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA
Suite 1250, 615 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106**

**Contact: Patricia Hartman
Media Contact
215-861-8525**

*COPIES OF NEWS MEMOS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/pae>*