



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

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BROOMALL MAN CONVICTED OF ILLEGAL TRADING WITH IRAN

PHILADELPHIA - Mohammad Reza Vaghari, 43, of Broomall, PA, was convicted today of crimes relating to his participation in illegal business transactions with Iran between 2002 and 2005. Vaghari was convicted of one count of conspiracy to violate the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), two substantive counts of violating IEEPA, and one count of Naturalization Fraud stemming from his attempt to procure U.S. citizenship.

Vaghari operated in this country through a Pennsylvania corporation called Saamen Company, purchasing items from other American companies and exporting the items to co-conspirators in the United Arab Emirates, who would then deliver the items to customers in Iran. Vaghari also made false statements in connection with his attempt to obtain U.S. citizenship in November 2004.

A sentencing hearing is scheduled for June 3, 2011.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Department of State Bureau of Diplomatic Security Service and the Bureau of Consular Affairs, and the Department of Commerce. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Nancy B. Winter and Lauren Ouziel.

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

Contact: PATTY HARTMAN
Media Contact
215-861-8525