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NEWS RELEASE

PHILADELPHIA – A federal jury today convicted Irina Rakhman, 54, of Philadelphia, for her participation in a scheme to provide out-of-state residents with Pennsylvania driver's licenses and Pennsylvania commercial driver's licenses (CDL), announced United States Attorney Zane David Memeger. Rakhman was convicted of conspiracy to produce fraudulent identification documents. Sentencing is scheduled for December 5, 2011. Co-defendants, Vitaliy and Tatyana Kroshnev, Mikhail Aminov, Irina Peterson, Khrystyna Davyda, Leonid Vilchik, Tair Rustamov and Irina Starovoyt, previously entered pleas of guilty for their participation in the fraudulent scheme and are awaiting sentencing. Vitaliy Kroshnev also previously entered a plea of guilty to making a material false statement.

The evidence entered at trial indicated that the defendant and her co-defendants, under the auspices of the Kroshnevs' business, International Training Academy (ITA), arranged for hundreds of non-residents of Pennsylvania to fraudulently obtain Pennsylvania driver's licenses and commercial driver's licenses from 2006 to 2010. The co-defendants provided applicants with false Pennsylvania residency documents, as well as foreign language interpreters who, under the guise of interpreting, gave CDL applicants the answers to the written commercial driver's license permit test. The evidence further reflected that the Kroshnevs paid members of the conspiracy, including Rakhman, for allowing their home addresses to be used by ITA clients, who resided out-of-state, to submit to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation as false proof of Pennsylvania residency.

Each defendant faces a maximum possible sentence of 15 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on the conspiracy charge.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General. It was prosecuted by Trial Attorney, Margaret Vierbuchen, U.S. Department of Justice, Organized Crime and Gang Section, and Assistant United States Attorneys Frank Labor and Michelle Morgan.

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