



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jury Convicts TSA Employee of Bribing Juror

St. Thomas, USVI - United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe, Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent-in-Charge Luis Fraticelli; Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent-in-Charge Javier F. Pena; Acting United States Marshal Reginald Bradshaw; Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division (IRS CID) Special Agent-in-Charge Daniel W. Auer; U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) Inspector-in-Charge David Collins, and Virgin Islands Police Commissioner Novelle Francis announced today that Ikim Blackett, a Transportation and Security Administration (TSA) employee, was convicted of Bribery of a Public Official in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 201(b)(1)(A).

On July 26, 2010, following a one-day trial before the Honorable Curtis V. Gomez, a federal jury found that Blackett, 31, of St. Thomas sought out and offered to pay a sitting juror \$1,500.00 in return for the juror voting not guilty in an international drug conspiracy case involving the smuggling of hundreds of kilograms of cocaine from Venezuela through the British Virgin Islands. Judge Gomez has scheduled the sentencing for November 3, 2010. As a result of the conviction, Blackett faces a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

This case was investigated by the Public Corruption Task Force comprising the Virgin Islands Police Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Marshals Service, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Nolan D. Paige and Kim R. Lindquist.

U.S. Attorney Sharpe asks that anyone who has information related to public corruption contact the Public Corruption Task Force at (340) 715-6516.