



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 13, 2011

#### **Jamaican Woman Sentenced to 3 Months in Prison in False Documents Case**

**St. Thomas, USVI** - Tia Bennett, a 51-year-old illegal immigrant, was sentenced to three months in prison on October 12, 2011 for fraudulent use of a driver's license to seek entry into the United States, United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe announced today.

District Court Chief Judge Curtis V. Gomez also sentenced Bennett, a Jamaican national, to three years of supervised release. As a special condition of supervised release, Bennett is prohibited from re-entering the United States without the expressed approval of the United States Director of Homeland Security.

Bennett, who was charged in a two-count Information, pleaded guilty to fraudulent use of a driver's license on August 12, 2011. According to the Information and other documents filed in federal court, on July 12, 2011, Bennett arrived at the Cyril E. King Airport on St. Thomas to travel to the mainland United States. Bennett presented a fraudulent Florida driver's license to a Customs and Border protection officer and declared herself to be a United States citizen. When queried, Bennett admitted to the Customs officer that she was not a United States citizen, but rather a national of Jamaica, and that she had purchased the Florida driver's license to gain entry into the mainland United States.

The case was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Everard E. Potter.