



U.S. Department of Justice

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, January 4, 2012

### **Former President of Four Seasons Farm Supermarket and Brother** **Sentenced to 44 months in Prison**

**St. Thomas, USVI** - District Court Chief Judge Curtis V. Gomez today sentenced Jad M. Shalhout, 33, the former president of Four Seasons Farm, Inc., to 44 months in prison and three years supervised release, announced United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe, United States Secret Service Resident Agent-in-Charge Pedro J. Gomez, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, Resident Agent-in-Charge Hillary Hodge Jr.

Chief Judge Gomez also sentenced Saker M. Shalhout, 35, the former president of Haruby, Inc., d/b/a H & S Jewelers, to 44 months in prison and three years supervised release, USA Sharpe said. Mohannad Abdel-Samad, 35, was sentenced to one month in prison and three years supervised release.

On March 31, 2011, Jad M. Shalhout was convicted after a three-day jury trial of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and two counts of concealment money laundering. Saker M. Shalhout, who was tried with Jad M. Shalhout, his brother, was convicted of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and 42 counts of wire fraud. Mohannad Abdel-Samad pleaded guilty to the same conspiracy on March 1, 2011.

All three defendants also were ordered to pay restitution in the total amount of \$1,071,102.97. In addition, each was ordered to pay a forfeiture money judgment equal to one third of the restitution amount.

Evidence presented at trial established that the three defendants agreed with co-conspirators, known and unknown, to defraud American Express through the fraudulent use of the Shalhouts' canceled American Express credit cards, and other canceled credit cards belonging to a relative and an associate, at Four Seasons Farm, Inc. The defendants were able to defraud American Express by conducting off-line transactions, which bypassed the credit authorization system of American Express. The transactions were processed by American Express, and funds in excess of \$1,000,000 were deposited into Four Seasons Farm's bank account. The evidence also established that Jad Shalhout used the money fraudulently obtained from the wire fraud in such a way as to disguise its nature, location, source and ownership.

The case was investigated by the United States Secret Service and HSI. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Kim L. Chisholm and Everard E. Potter.