



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill  
Middle District of Florida

Tampa                      Orlando                      Jacksonville                      Ocala                      Fort Myers  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE                      CONTACT: WILLIAM DANIELS  
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<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr>                      FAX: (813) 274-6300

**FOREIGN NATIONAL INDICTED FOR ILLEGAL  
IMPORT OF UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE**

Tampa, Florida - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill, along with Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations (ICE HSI), Susan McCormick, announce the return by a grand jury of an indictment charging Henson Chua (47, Manilla, Philippines) with violations of the Arms Export Control Act and smuggling. If convicted on all counts, Chua faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison. Chua was arrested on a criminal Complaint on the evening of February 10, 2011, in Los Angeles, California.

According to the indictment, Chua knowingly and willfully caused the temporary import into the United States of an item designated as a defense article on the U.S. Munitions List, namely an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), and aided and abetted the attempted export from the United States of the same item, without having first obtained from the U.S. Department of State a license or written authorization. Chua is also accused of knowingly bringing an item into the United States contrary to law. According to court documents, Chua initially listed the item for sale on Ebay and then engaged in communications with undercover agents from ICE HSI which culminated in the recovery of the item by U.S. officials.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation

of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until, proven guilty.

This case was investigated by ICE HSI with assistance from the U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations. It will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Sara C. Sweeney.