

Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOVEMBER 4, 2011
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GRAND ISLAND MAN SENTENCED ON DRUG CHARGES

BUFFALO, N.Y. – U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Ayman Abdellatif, 32, of Grand Island, N.Y., who was convicted of conspiracy to import a controlled substance, was sentenced to 46 months in prison and three years supervised released by U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas S. Duszkievicz, who handled the case, stated that the defendant was part of a conspiracy to import between 80 kilograms and 100 kilograms of marijuana into the U.S. from Canada. Abdellatif was arrested after a courier was seized at the Rainbow Bridge in August 2008, with nearly 15 pounds of marijuana concealed under the rear seat of the vehicle. A search warrant executed at the defendant's home uncovered an AR-15 rifle and three magazines containing 61 rounds of ammunition. The Court ordered the forfeiture of the rifle and ammunition as part of the sentence.

The conviction was the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge James C. Spero, and Customs and Border Protection, under the direction of Port Director Joseph Wilson.

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