

Department of Justice

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GRAND ISLAND MAN SENTENCED ON DRUG CHARGES

BUFFALO, N.Y. – U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Mohammed Abdellatif, 29, of Grand Island, N.Y., who was convicted of conspiracy to import a controlled substance, was sentenced to 45 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, along with his brother and another individual, imported at least 80 kilograms of marijuana into the U.S. from Canada. Abdellatif was arrested after a courier, Toni Marie Shelton, was stopped at the Rainbow Bridge on August 7, 2008, with nearly 15 pounds of marijuana concealed in her vehicle. During the execution of a search warrant at the defendant's residence, law enforcement recovered an AR-15 rifle and three magazines containing 61 rounds of ammunition. The defendant's brother, Ayman Abdellatif, was sentenced in November 2011 to 46 months in prison by Judge Arcara. Toni Marie Shelton was sentenced by Judge Arcara to probation February 15, 2012.

The sentencing is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, 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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