

Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 7, 2011
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PENNSYLVANIA WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DRUG CHARGES

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Theresa Zekia Shaw, 23, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to import a controlled substance before U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a \$1,000,000 fine or both.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles B. Wydysh, Shaw and Jermaine Samuels, 27, of Lynn, Massachusetts, attempted to smuggle ecstasy pills which were found in plastic bags hidden under the back seat of a vehicle driven into the United States from Canada by Shaw. The vehicle was registered to Samuels who was arrested when he arrived at a designated location to meet Shaw.

Samuels was also convicted of conspiracy to import a controlled substance and will be sentenced on December 22, 2011.

The arrests are the result of investigations on the part of Special Agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, under the direction of James C. Spero, Special Agent in Charge and U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers under the direction of Port Director Joseph Wilson.

Sentencing is scheduled for March 25, 2012 at 12:30 p.m. before Judge Arcara.

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