

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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CHINESE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FALSELY CLAIMING U.S. CITIZENSHIP

BUFFALO, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Zhang Lin Wu, 34, of China, pleaded guilty to falsely representing himself to be a United States Citizen before U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara. The charge carries a maximum sentence of three years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kathleen A. Lynch, who is handling the case, stated that the defendant was a passenger on an inbound Amtrak train entering the United States at Niagara Falls, N.Y. on August 10, 2012. During an inspection, the defendant claimed to be a United States citizen and presented a United States passport. Wu told a Customs officer that he was born in New York. After U.S. immigration officers took his fingerprints, they discovered that they were a match for the defendant, not the person whose name was on the passport. Thereafter the defendant admitted to agents of the United States Department of State that he was not a United States citizen and had obtained the U.S. passport by using a fake identity.

The plea is the result of an investigation by Customs and Border Protection, under the direction of James Engleman, Director of Field Operations.

Sentencing is scheduled for March 11, 2013, at 1:00 p.m. before Judge Arcara.

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