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**FOUR MEN AND ONE WOMAN CHARGED IN \$137,000 CELL PHONE FRAUD;  
CHARGED WITH HAVING ALLEGEDLY STOLEN MORE THAN 200 VERIZON  
PHONES**

*Received replacement phones after convincing the company their phones were broken*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that four men and a woman have been arrested on grand larceny charges for repeatedly claiming that their Verizon cell phones were not working and convincing the company to send them replacement phones. They then allegedly sold the replacement phones on Ebay.

District Attorney Brown said, "According to the charges, the defendants took advantage of Verizon's phone replacement policy by posing as individuals with faulty cell phones in an effort to steal \$137,000 worth of phones. The case will be prosecuted vigorously and ensure that those who are exploiting the policy and ultimately causing higher costs for legitimate cell phone users are appropriately punished."

District Attorney Brown identified the defendants as Sylvia Iglesias, 46, of 130 45<sup>th</sup> Street in Union City, New Jersey; Navid Ahadian, 22, of 97-10 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, in Rego Park; Shahryar Khanaghini, 41, of 99-50 63<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, in Rego Park; Albert Khanaghini, 24, of 99-50 63<sup>rd</sup> Avenue in Rego Park; and Shervin Golbari, 26, of 11 MacGregor Avenue, Roslyn Heights, New York.

The defendants are accused of notifying Verizon between February 22, 2005 and August 7, 2006, that their original cell phones were not working and receiving replacement phones, according to the criminal complaint. Each of the 233 phones they received was valued at \$600. The complaint alleges that an examination of Ebay and Paypal records indicates the defendants sold the phones and mailed them to buyers from various addresses in Queens. The theft was uncovered by a Verizon fraud investigator.

The defendants were released without bail this morning after being arraigned on charges of grand larceny in the second degree before Queens Criminal Court Judge Alex Zigman. They face up to 15 years in prison if convicted. The next court date was set for January 4, 2008.

The case was investigated by Special Agent Michael Cassidy of the U.S. Secret Service and Investigator Emmanuel Lebreton of the New York State Police.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Purvi Patel of the Economic and Environmental Crimes Bureau, under the direct supervision of Gregory C. Pavlides, Bureau Chief and Christina Hanophy, Deputy Bureau Chief and the overall supervision of Peter A. Crusco, Executive Assistant District Attorney, Investigations Division, and Linda M. Cantoni, Deputy Bureau Chief.

It should be noted that a complaint is merely an accusation and that the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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