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**D.A. BROWN: TWO QUEENS MEN CHARGED UNDER HATE CRIMES STATUTE FOR  
TARGETING BANGLADESHI COMMUNITY IN SCHEME TO BUY \$400,000 IN DIAMONDS**  
*Allegedly Stole Personal Identification of Victims*

District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that two Queens men have been charged under New York State's Hate Crime Law with stealing personal identification information from nearly a dozen individuals in Queens' Bangladeshi community and then using the stolen information to purchase \$400,000 in diamonds. The defendants are alleged to have specifically targeted the individuals based on their ethnicity, claiming them responsible for the September 11, 2001 attacks.

"The defendants are accused of using a national tragedy as justification for their criminal behavior," said District Attorney Brown. "Crimes motivated by bias and hate can never be tolerated. Under the provisions of New York State's Hate Crimes Act, enhanced charges can be filed when defendants commit a larceny and select their victim because of their ethnicity."

The District Attorney identified the defendants as Marconian Sockwell, 22, of 107-16 160<sup>th</sup> Street in Jamaica, and Joseph Ogueri, 27, of 92-20 216<sup>th</sup> Street in Queens Village. The two men were arraigned on Saturday before Queens Criminal Court Judge Fernando Camacho on an 88-count complaint, charging them with second- and third-degree grand larceny as a hate crime, third-degree attempted grand larceny, third-degree attempted criminal possession of stolen property, first-degree reckless endangerment (Ogueri only), third- and fourth-degree criminal possession of stolen property, first-degree identity theft, fourth-degree conspiracy, first-degree scheme to defraud, fourth-degree criminal mischief (Ogueri only), second-degree criminal impersonation and third-degree unlawful possession of personal identification information. The defendants, who face up to 25 years in prison if convicted, were each ordered held on \$150,000 bail and to return to court on November 13, 2007.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the criminal charges, the defendants would call up individuals with Southwest Asian-sounding names and pretend to be representatives from Equifax, a national credit reporting agency. Believing that the defendants worked for a legitimate company, the victims would then provide the requested personal identification information—such as credit card numbers, date of births and social security numbers. The defendants would then allegedly use the information to get themselves added to the victims' credit accounts. Once in control of the victims' credit accounts, the defendants would then order between \$3,000 and \$9,000 in diamonds and have them delivered to the cardholders' real addresses, where the defendants allegedly intercepted the FedEx delivery and took possession of the diamonds. It is estimated that losses totaled approximately \$400,000.

The defendants were arrested on Friday, October 26, 2007, when NYPD detectives working with U.S. Secret Service agents arranged for a "controlled delivery" after discovering that \$8,900 in diamonds were to be delivered to the residence of one of the victims. When surrounded by law enforcement officers, the defendants allegedly attempted to flee by ramming a Secret Service vehicle. Fortunately, no law enforcement personnel were injured.

In a statement alleged made to NYPD detectives following his arrest, Sockwell said that the victims are the ones who brought down the towers – referring to the attacks of September 11, 2001.

The investigation was conducted by NYPD Detective Armando Coutinho and Police Officer Lawrence Lloyds, of the Special Frauds Squad, under the supervision of Captain Gregory Antonsen, and by Special Agent Matthew Vandevender, of the New York Field Office of the United States Secret Services, under the supervision the Special Agent in Charge Brian Parr.

The case is being prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Neil F. Gitin, of the District Attorney's Economic Crimes Bureau, under the supervision of Gregory Pavlides, Bureau Chief, and Christina Hanophy, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney Linda M. Cantoni.

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

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