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QUEENS MAN SENTENCED TO UP TO FOUR YEARS IN PRISON
FOR \$100,000 IMMIGRATION FRAUD SCHEME

Claimed To Be Able To Provide Green Cards and Other Immigration Documents

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a Queens man who admitted to defrauding five members of the Trinidad community in the South Ozone Park and Richmond Hill sections of Queens by promising to expedite and produce legitimate green cards and other U.S. documents after collecting a total of nearly \$100,000 from them has been sentenced to one and one-third years to four years in state prison.

District Attorney Brown said, “The defendant cheated honest, hardworking individuals out of, in some cases, their life savings, by falsely promising to help them achieve their American Dream by gaining legal status in this country. Today’s sentence provides a measure of justice for his victims.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Nazim (“Tony”) Hosein, 38, of 106-43 95th Street in Ozone Park, Queens. Hosein, who pleaded guilty earlier this month to fourth-degree grand larceny and signed a confession of judgment in the amount of \$91,800 to be paid back to his five victims, appeared today before Acting Supreme Court Justice Lenora Gerald who imposed the indeterminate sentence of one and one-third years to four years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the criminal complaint, Hosein met with his victims at various locations in Queens County on numerous occasions between August 1, 2007, and October 10, 2008. Hosein told his victims that he knew someone who worked inside the federal building at 26 Federal Plaza in lower Manhattan who could assist him in getting them legitimate immigration documents – including green cards, social security cards and work permits – in exchange for a large sum of money, which would also cover the cost of other expenses, such as bank statements, taxes, fingerprints and medical coverage. The fees ranged from \$5,000 to \$20,000. In some cases, Hosein provided his victims with forged documents and, in other cases, asked them to meet him at 26 Federal Plaza on October 10, 2008, to receive their documents.

On October 10, 2008, many of Hosein’s victims waited more than five hours outside the federal building for him. Unbeknownst to them, Hosein had taken a flight from JFK Airport to Trinidad the day before, according to U.S. Customs records.

In total, Hosein took \$91,800 in exchange for promising to obtain U.S. documentation for seven individuals from five families.

Hosein was arrested in January 2009 as he arrived at JFK Airport on a flight from his native Trinidad.

The investigation was conducted by Port Authority Police Detectives Curt King and Dewan Maharaj, under the supervision of Detective Sergeant Mike Palermo and Lieutenant William Hanley, and the overall supervision of Commanding Officer Anthony Fitzgerald.

Assistant District Attorneys Catherine C. Kane, Chief of the District Attorney’s Airport Investigations Unit, and Dana L. Brubaker, of the Organized Crime and Rackets Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Gerard A. Brave, Rackets Bureau Chief, and Marc P. Resnick, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney of the Investigations Division Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Linda M. Cantoni.

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Note to Editor: An e-version of this press release is posted on QDA website at www.queensda.org.