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**QUEENS MAN CHARGED WITH \$100,000 IMMIGRATION SCHEME**  
*Allegedly Claimed To Be Able To Get Green Cards and Other Immigration Documents*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown, joined by Port Authority Police Superintendent Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr., announced today that a Queens man has been charged with defrauding more than half a dozen members of the Trinidad community in the South Ozone Park and Richmond Hill sections of Queens by allegedly promising to expedite and produce legitimate green cards and other U.S. documents after collecting a total of nearly \$100,000 from them.

District Attorney Brown said, "The victims in this case are all hardworking immigrants who bought into the defendant's alleged assurances to hasten their American Dream and trustingly turned over large sums of money to him. Instead of a brighter future, they found their dreams quashed by the defendant's alleged unscrupulous actions and their money gone."

Port Authority Police Superintendent Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr., said, "Unfortunately, preying on new arrivals to the United States isn't a novel crime, but we're out there every day aggressively pursuing every tip and every bit of intelligence to arrest these lawbreakers, take them off the street and make them answer in court for their criminal activity."

District Attorney Brown and Superintendent Plumeri ask that anyone who believes that he or she may have been a victim of the defendants' alleged scheme to contact Port Authority Police Detective Dewan Maharaj through the Port Authority's Central Police Desk at 201-239-3500, or the PAPD Suspicious Activities Hotline at 800-828-7273.

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Nazim ("Tony") Hosein, 36, of 106-43 95<sup>th</sup> Street in Ozone Park, Queens. Hosein, who was arrested yesterday morning as he arrived at JFK Airport on a flight from his native Trinidad, was arraigned before Queens Criminal Court Ira Margulis on a 15-count criminal complaint charging him with five counts of third-degree grand larceny, five counts of third-degree criminal possession of stolen property, four counts of second-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument and one count of first-degree scheme to defraud. Hosein, who faces up to seven years in prison if convicted, was ordered held on \$100,000 bail and to return to court on January 20, 2009. Judge Margulis also ordered a bail sufficiency hearing to be held prior to releasing the defendant on bail.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the criminal complaint, Hosein met with his victims at various locations in Queens on numerous occasions between August 1, 2007, and October 10, 2008. It is alleged that 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 immigrations 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 allegedly ranged from \$5,000 to \$20,000. In some cases, Hosein allegedly 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 alleged 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, it is alleged that Hosein took \$91,800 in exchange for promising to obtain U.S. documentation for seven individuals.

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, and by Detective Investigator Joseph Brancaccio of the District Attorney’s Detective Bureau under the supervision of Lieutenant Robert J. Burke and Sergeant Evelyn Alegre under the overall supervision of Lawrence J. Festa, Chief Investigator and Albert D. Velardi, Deputy Chief Investigator

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, will be prosecuting 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.

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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