



# NEWS RELEASE

**Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes**  
Passaic County Prosecutor's Office  
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## **TWENTY-SEVEN INDIVIDUALS INDICTED ON PRESCRIPTION DRUG CONSPIRACY AND DISTRIBUTION RELATED CHARGES**

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PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

December 15, 2010

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes announces the indictment of twenty-seven individuals: Hamzah A. Mustafa, Peter Stisi, III, Hanifa Muslim, Abdullah H. Muslim, Catherine Lemire, Michael J. Tafankaji, Amen Ramadan, Rasha Ramadan, Terek O. Aziz, Bahdir Yahsi, Muhamed Jashari, Fares Y. Ramadan, Shkelqim Kaba, Mohamad I. Othman, Ferhat A. Hasanoglu, Akiem L. McKinney, Louai A. Abdelatif, Sedat Kukul, Jade T. Kolatsky, Anthony Koloski, Matthew M. Weisholz, Andrew Mantilla, Thomas R. Gergowitz, Anthony J. Sigari, Jr., Dominick A. Romano, Matthew A. Roselle, and Weiss Froogh.

Beginning in or about early 2009 and continuing to in or about April 2010, the joint investigation led by the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office and the Clifton Police Department revealed that Hamzah Mustafa, Catherine Lemire, Peter Stisi III, Hanifah Muslim, Abdullah Muslim, Michael Tafankaji, Amen Ramadan, Rasha Ramadan and Weiss Froogh, and a number of other individuals were suppliers of large quantities of illegal prescription pills and controlled dangerous substances, including but not limited to, Oxycodone and the following opiate based painkillers under the umbrella of Oxycodone, Percocet, Oxycontin, Roxicodone, a/k/a "Blues"

in the Counties of Passaic, Essex, Bergen, Hudson and Morris. Oxycodone, one of the most abused prescription drugs, is a Schedule II narcotic controlled substance prescribed by a licensed physician to treat moderate to severe pain of long duration. Oxycodone has several trade names: OxyContin®, Roxicodone®, Percocet®, Tylox®, and Percodan®. Oxycodone can be highly addictive if abused and not taken under a legitimate physician's guidance. In addition, the ring supplied buyers with Ketamine a/k/a "Special-K", Steroids, Cocaine, and Marijuana.

Hamzah Mustafa and Hanifa Muslim have each been indicted on one count of Leader of a Narcotics Trafficking Network, a crime of the first degree. The Leader of a Narcotics Trafficking Network carries a sentence of life imprisonment during which the person must serve twenty-five (25) years before being eligible for parole.

Hamzah Mustafa, Hanifa Muslim, Peter Stisi, III, Abdullah H. Muslim, Catherine Lemire, Amen Ramadan, Rasha Ramada, Terek O. Aziz, Bahadir Yahsi, Muhamed Jashari, Feres Y. Ramadan, Thomas R. Gergowicz, Anthony J. Sigari, Jr., and Weiss Froogh have been indicted on one count of Conspiracy to Distribute a Prescription Legend Drug (in excess of 100 doses), a crime of the second degree, which carries a maximum of up to ten (10) years in New Jersey State Prison.

Michael Tafankaji and Tarek O. Aziz have been indicted on one count of Possession of a Prescription Legend Drug with Intent to Distribute (in excess of 100 doses), of the second degree. The Possession of a Prescription Legend Drug with Intent to Distribute carries a maximum of up to ten (10) years in New Jersey State Prison. Amen Ramadan has been indicted on two counts of Conspiracy to Distribute a Prescription Legend Drug (in excess of 100 doses), a crime of the second degree, which carries a maximum of up to ten (10) years in New Jersey State Prison.

Amen Ramadan, Rasha Ramadan and Weiss Froogh have been indicted on one count of Financial Facilitation of Criminal Activity, a crime of the second degree. The Financial Facilitation of Criminal Activity charge, carries a maximum sentence of up to ten (10) years in New Jersey State Prison. Michael J. Tafankaji has been indicted on one count of Financial Facilitation of Criminal Activity, a crime of the third degree, which carries a maximum sentence of up to five (5) years in New Jersey State Prison.

The remaining defendants have been indicted for related Conspiracy to Distribute and Possession of Prescription Legend Drugs, Possession and Intent to Distribute Controlled Dangerous Substances and other lesser charges.

As a result of search warrants executed on April 7, 2010, at various residences and automobiles located in the Counties of Passaic, Essex, Hudson, Bergen, and Morris, law enforcement officials recovered: in excess of 2000 prescription pills, \$200,000 in cash and 15 vehicles.

Any inquiries may be directed to Passaic County Chief Assistant Prosecutor Michael J. De Marco. He can be reached at 973-837-7656 or [mdemarco@passaiccountynj.org](mailto:mdemarco@passaiccountynj.org).

A criminal complaint is merely an accusation. Despite this accusation, the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.