



**United States Attorney's Office District of
Connecticut
Press Release**

September 18, 2009 **NIGERIAN CITIZEN CHARGED WITH PARTICIPATING IN ADVANCE
FEE SCAM THAT DEFRAUDED CONNECTICUT RESIDENT**

Nora R. Dannehy, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, today announced that a federal grand jury in Bridgeport has returned an Indictment charging OKPAKO MIKE DIAMREYAN, 31, a citizen of Nigeria who sometimes resided in Accra, Ghana, with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and three counts of wire fraud, stemming from an alleged "advance fee" scam. The Indictment was returned on September 15.

According to the Indictment, in an "advance fee" scam, a victim is persuaded to pay money (an "advance fee") in order to obtain a larger sum of money that never materializes. From approximately February 2006 through June 2007, DIAMREYAN is alleged to have conspired with others to defraud a resident of Connecticut who paid various fees in order to obtain the benefits of a nonexistent "\$20 million oil contract."

DIAMREYAN has been detained since his arrest on August 27 in Mattapan, Massachusetts. Today, DIAMREYAN was arraigned on the charges in the Indictment before United States Magistrate Judge William I. Garfinkel in Bridgeport.

If convicted of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, DIAMREYAN faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years and a fine of up to \$250,000. If convicted of wire fraud, DIAMREYAN faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years and a fine of up to \$250,000, on each count.

U.S. Attorney Dannehy stressed that an indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is entitled to a fair trial at which it is the Government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case is being investigated by the Defense Criminal Investigative Service of the United States Department of Defense. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Edward Chang.

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